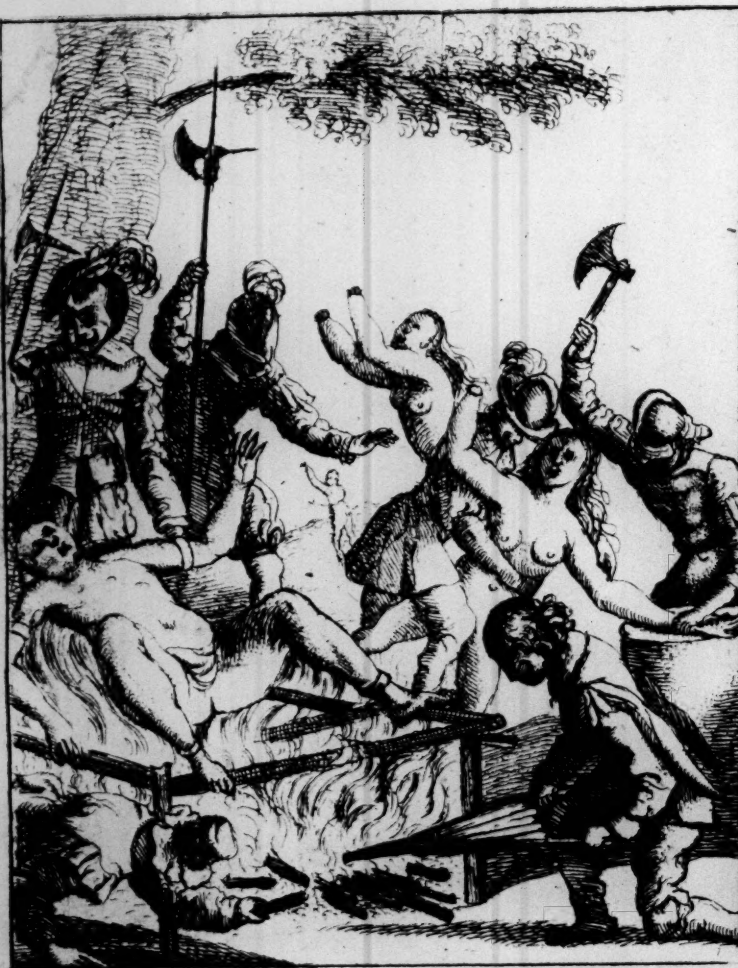


Tears of y Indians. or inquisition for Bloud.  
 Being a Relation of y Spanish Massacres in those parts.  
*R. Gaywood fecit*





Tears of y Indians. or inquisition for Bloud.  
 Being a Relation of y Spanish Massacres in those parts.  
*R. Gaywood fecit*



3  
*The Tears of the* INDIANS:  
BEING  
An Historical and true Account  
Of the Cruel  
Massacres and Slaughters  
of above Twenty Millions  
of innocent People ;  
Committed by the Spaniards  
In the Islands of  
*Hispaniola, Cuba, Jamaica, &c.*  
As also, in the Continent of  
*Mexico, Peru, & other Places of the*  
**West-Indies,**  
To the total destruction of those Countries.

---

Written in Spanish by *Casaus,*  
an Eye-witness of those things ;  
And made English by J. P.

---

DEUT. 29. 15.

*Therefore thine eye shall have no compassion ; but life for  
life , tooth for tooth , hand for hand , foot for foot.*

---

L O N D O N ,

Printed by J. C. for Nath. Brook, at the Angel  
in Cornhil. 1656.










TO  
His Highness,  
O L I V E R,  
LORD PROTECTOR  
of the Commonwealth of  
England, Scotland & Ireland,  
*With the Dominions thereto  
belonging.*

May it please your Highness,

 Have here laid  
prostrate before  
the Throne of  
Your Justice, above  
Twenty Millions of the  
A 3 Souls



---

## *The Epistle*

---

Souls of the slaughter'd  
Indians ; whose forc'd de-  
parture from their Bodies,  
Cruelty it self compassio-  
nates. Yet me-thinks I  
hear a sudden stillness a-  
mong them ; the cry of  
Blood ceasing at the noise  
of Your great transactions,  
while You arm for their  
Revenge. By which it is  
apparent , how well your  
Highness doth observe the  
will of the most High, using  
Your vast Power and Dig-  
nity onely to the advance-  
ment of his Glory among  
the

---

## Dedicatory.

---

the Nations : while the  
Divine Deitie bequeathes  
You back again immediate  
Recompences ; crowning  
You, like his holy Warri-  
our, *David*, with the high-  
est degree of earthly Fame.  
Therefore hath he inspired  
your Highness with a  
Prowess like that of *Jo-*  
*shua*, to lead his Armies  
forth to Battel ; and a Zeal  
more devoutly fervent  
than that of *Jehu*, to cut off  
the Idolater from the earth.  
Which Divine vertues ap-  
pear so eminent in You,  
A 4 that



---

## *The Epistle*

---

that there is no man , who  
opposes not himself against  
Heaven , but doth extol  
Your just Anger against  
the Bloudy and Popish  
Nation of the Spaniards,  
whose Superstitions have  
exceeded those of *Canaan*,  
and whose Abominations  
have excell'd those of *A-  
bab* , who spilt the Blood of  
innocent *Naboth* , to ob-  
tain his Vineyard.

And now, may it please  
your Highness, God having  
given You a full Victory  
over Your Enemies in this  
Land,

---

## *Dedictory.*

---

Land, and a fix'd Establish-  
ment, by the prosperous  
and total quelling of those  
pertinacious Spirits; cer-  
tainly there is no true Eng-  
lish-man who doth not lift  
up his eyes to heaven with  
Thanks to Almighty God,  
that You have made the  
Land so happie, as to be the  
Admiration of other Nati-  
ons, who have laid themselv's  
at Your feet for Alliances, as  
knowing Your wonderful  
Successes both by Sea and  
Land.

Pardon me, Great Sir, if  
next



---

## *The Epistle*

---

next my zeal to Heaven,  
the loud Cry of so many  
bloudy Massacres, far sur-  
passing the Popish Cruel-  
ties in *Ireland*, the Honour  
of my Country, of which  
You are as tender as of the  
Apple of Your own eye,  
hath induced me, out of a  
constant Affection to your  
Highness Service, to pub-  
lish this Relation of the  
*Spanish Cruelties*; where-  
by all good men may see  
and applaud the Justness of  
Your Proceedings: Being  
confident that God, who  
hath

---

*Dedictory.*

---

hath put this Great Designe  
into Your Hands, will also  
be pleased to give it a signal  
Blessing ; which is the  
Prayer of

YOUR HIGHNESS

most faithful,

and

most obedient

Servant,

*J. Phillips.*





1870

My dear Mr. [illegible]  
I have just received your letter of the 10th inst. and am  
glad to hear that you are well and happy. I am  
also well and hope to hear from you again soon.

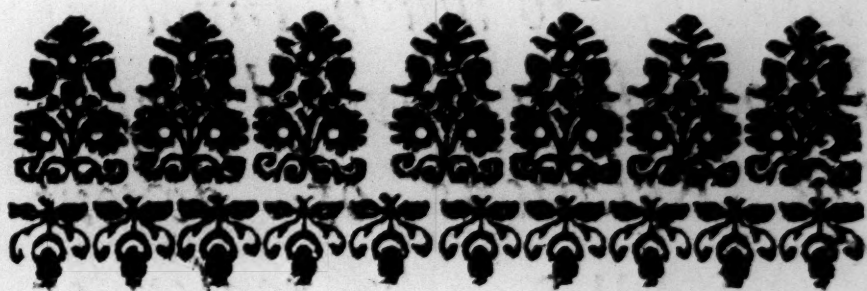
I am, dear Mr. [illegible], very respectfully,  
Your obedient servant,  
[illegible]

I am, dear Mr. [illegible], very respectfully,  
Your obedient servant,  
[illegible]

I am, dear Mr. [illegible], very respectfully,  
Your obedient servant,  
[illegible]

I am, dear Mr. [illegible], very respectfully,  
Your obedient servant,  
[illegible]

I am, dear Mr. [illegible], very respectfully,  
Your obedient servant,  
[illegible]



To all true  
English-men.



*Ever had we  
so just cause  
to exclaim  
in the words  
of the Pro-  
phet Jeremiah ; O that our  
heads were waters, and our  
eyes fountains of tears, that  
we might weep for the Ef-  
fusion*



---

fusion of so much Innocent  
Blood which provok'd these  
sad Relations of devout  
CASAUS, by reason of  
the cruel Slaughters and  
Butcheries of the Jesuiti-  
cal Spaniards, perpetrated  
upon so many Millions of  
poor innocent Heathens,  
who having onely the light  
of Nature, not knowing  
their Saviour Jesus Christ,  
were sacrificed to the Poli-  
tick Interest and Avarice  
of the wicked Spaniards.

The blood of Ireland,  
spilt by the same Faction,  
in

---

comparison of these  
Massacres, was but as  
Drop to the Ocean. It  
is the Saying of Christ  
himself, the Son of Mer-  
cy, and Redeemer of the  
world, That we ought  
not to cast the Childrens  
bread to dogs: But what  
could he have judg'd of  
us, that not onely cast  
Bread, but the Blood;  
and not onely the Blood,  
but the Innocent Blood of  
men, women and children,  
satisfie the contemptible  
anger of their Hounds?

The



---

fusion of so much Innocent  
Blood which provok'd these  
sad Relations of devout  
CASAUS, by reason of  
the cruel Slaughters and  
Butcheries of the Jesuiti-  
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---

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Bread to dogs: But what  
would he have judg'd of  
those, that not onely cast  
the Bread, but the Blood;  
and not onely the Blood,  
but the Innocent Blood of  
men, women and children,  
to satisfy the contemptible  
bunger of their Hounds?

The



The intention of these men was Murder ; and they kill'd up the poor Indians , not as if they had been their Fellow-Mortals , but like Death it self ; and invaded their Land , not like Men , but like the Pestilence , whose destruction is Epidemical.

When our own Case had a small Resemblance of this, how sensible the People were , and how they mourned at the burning of a poor Village ; the usual Accidents , or rather, things to be

---

be expected, in a tedious  
and necessitated War: but,  
had you been Eye-witnesses  
of the transcending Mas-  
sacres here related; had  
you been one of those that  
lately saw a pleasant Coun-  
try, now swarming with  
multitudes of People, but  
immediately all depopula-  
ted, and drown'd in a De-  
luge of Bloud: had you  
been one of those that saw  
great Cities of Nations  
and Countries in this mo-  
ment flourishing with Inha-  
bitants, but in the next,



---

totally ruin'd with such a  
general Desolation, as left  
neither Person living, nor  
House remaining: had you  
seen the poor innocent Hea-  
thens shaming and upbraid-  
ing, with the ghastlineß of  
their Wounds, the devilish  
Cruelties of those that cal-  
led themselves Christians:  
had you seen the poor crea-  
tures torn from the peace  
and quiet of their own Ha-  
bitations, where God had  
planted them, to labour in a  
Tormenting Captivity, by  
many degrees worse then  
that

that of Algier, or the  
Turkish Gallies; your Com-  
passion must of necessity  
have turn'd into Astonish-  
ment: the tears of Men  
can hardly suffice; these  
are Enormities to make  
the Angels mourn and be-  
wail the loss of so many de-  
parted souls, as might have  
been converted and redeem-  
ed to their eternal Mansi-  
ons.

We read of old, of  
the Ten Persecutions  
wherein the Primitive Chri-  
stians were destroy'd by the



---

Cruelties of the Heathen  
Emperours : but we now  
read of Christians , the  
Professors of a Religion  
grounded upon Love and  
Charity , massacring, where  
there was no cause of An-  
tipathy, but their own obsti-  
nate Barbarism ; as if be-  
cause their Wickedness had  
so far transform'd them  
into Devils , they were re-  
solved to deface the image  
of God , so innocently con-  
versing among them. The  
Turks and Scythians shall  
be now no more the Ada-  
gies

---

gies of Cruelty among us ;  
for here is a Christian Na-  
tion which hath taken off  
that Envie from them ,  
and entayl'd it upon them-  
selves.

And now , O men of  
England , let me ask you  
but this Question ; Whether  
you , that for these many  
years have had the Honour  
to be the Patrons of Religi-  
on ; whose Charity hath still  
relieved , and whose Power  
hath still defended the Cause  
of the Oppressed at home  
b 3 and



---

and abroad ; whether you  
can withdraw your Assist-  
ance from this Great Work,  
and deprive your selves of  
that Birth-right which you  
seem to have among the  
Nations , God still con-  
tinuing the Management  
of his Justice in the hands  
of our most Fortunate and  
Lawful Magistrate , whom  
he hath rais'd up , as his  
Great Instrument, to re-  
venge the Blood of that in-  
nocent People.

Consider this , more-  
over , That you are not  
now

uow to fight against your  
Country-men, but against  
your Old and Constant E-  
nemies, the SPANI-  
ARDS, a Proud, De-  
ceitful, Cruel, and Treache-  
rous Nation, whose chief-  
est Aim hath been the  
Conquest of this Land,  
and to enslave the People  
of this Nation; witness  
those Invasions in the days  
of Queen ELIZABETH;  
whose Leagues of Amity  
we had more reason to re-  
pent of, then to rejoyce at,  
as being destructive to the



Nation, and made with those that onely sought the Advantages of Peace, that they might be more safe to do us Mischief : and so little they car'd for Peace with us, that they never sought it, but when meer Urgencies of State requir'd ; and never kept their Articles, when they had the least hope of Profit to themselves : Of which we need not look for ancient Examples ; they are fresh in Memory, and have been too sadly and unde-

---

undeservedly sustain'd, both  
nearer home, and of late  
years in the West-Indies  
also, as appears by that  
Pious and Prudent DE-  
CLARATION set forth  
by his Highness the LORD  
PROTECTOR; as  
if Providence had so or-  
dain'd it, that by the  
Wrongs of our Country-  
men in those Parts, we  
should be interested in the  
Quarrel of those Innocent  
Nations.

Neither need we to fear  
the Vaunts of the Spanish  
Mo-



---

---

Monarch, whose Govern-  
ment stands not on those  
strong Foundations that  
some imagine; Blood and  
Tyrannie being the chief  
Pillars of his Greatness, or  
rather, his Arcana Impe-  
rii; & his Empire being one-  
ly strong in this, That the  
Weaknesses thereof have not  
yet been well look'd into.  
Should we chase him from  
his Indian Treasures, he  
would soon retire to his  
Shell, like a Snail tapt up-  
on the horns. And per-  
haps it would not a little  
avail

---

avail to the General Peace  
of Europe, whereby we  
should be strengthened a-  
gainst the Common Enemy  
of Christianitie. For  
doubtless it hath been the  
Satanical Scope of this Ty-  
rant, To set all the Euro-  
pean Princes at Variance,  
and to keep them busie at  
home, that they might not  
have leasure to bend their  
Forces against his Golden  
Regions. But he pre-  
tends a Right to them,  
though upon very slender  
Grounds: for that the  
Eng-



English may better claim  
then himself ; it being first  
discovered, as is well known,  
and tendered to Henry the  
Seventh, by Sebastian Ca-  
bot, one of his own Ca-  
ptains. Which brings to  
minde the Poor Spirits of  
our English Kings, who  
would not regard such an  
Advantage, so highly im-  
porting the Honour of the  
Nation, so far as to be  
almost guilty of the Bloud  
shed in those parts, through  
their neglect. But for far-  
ther satisfaction concerning  
the

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the Right of the English  
to the West-Indies, I shall  
refer you to a further Trea-  
tise, which I may ere long put  
forth.

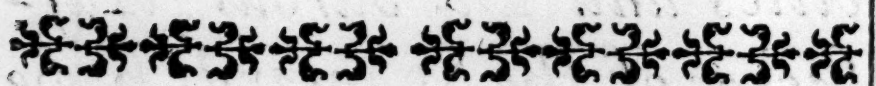
And now, honoured Coun-  
try-men, seeing that by  
Divine Providence the Cru-  
elties and Barbarous Mas-  
sacres of the Spaniards have  
been so apparently present-  
ed to you, I cannot but  
be confident of your En-  
deavours, as you tender  
the Good and Welfare of  
your Native Country, to  
acquit



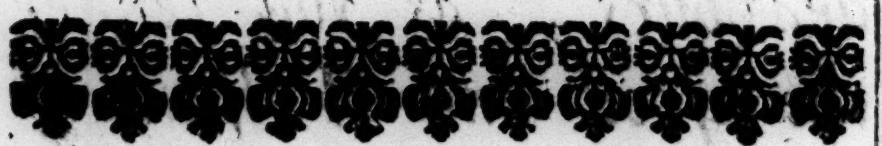
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acquit your selves in so just  
a Cause, which God hath  
put into the Heart and  
Hands of our Supreme  
Magistrate, who is so  
Vigilant to embrace all Op-  
portunities for the Good of  
the Nation.



The



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*Tears of the Indies, or Inquisition for Bloud: being the Relation of the Spanish Massacre there.*

**I**N the year 1492. the *West-Indies* were discovered, in the following year they were inhabited by the *Spaniards*: a great company of the *Spaniards* going about 49. years agoe. The first place they came to, was *Hispaniola*, being a most fertile Island, and for the bignesse of it very famous, it being no less then six hundred miles in compass. Round about it lie an innumerable company of Islands, so throng'd with Inhabitants, that there is not to be found a greater multitude of people in any part of the world. The Continent is distant from this about Two hundred miles, stretching it self out in length upon the sea side for above Ten thousand miles in length. This is already found out, and more is daily discovered.

B

These



These Countreys are inhabited by such a number of people, as if God had assembled and called together to this place, the greatest part of Mankinde.

This infinite multitude of people was so created by God, as that they were without fraud, without subtilty or malice, to their natural Governours most faithful and obedient. Toward the *Spaniards* whom they serve, patient, meek and peaceful, and who laying all contentious and tumultuous thoughts aside, live without any hatred or desire of revenge; the people are most delicate and tender, enjoying such a feeble constitution of body as does not permit them to endure labour, so that the Children of Princes and great persons here, are not more nice and delicate then the Children of the meanest Countrey-man in that place. The Nation is very poor and indigent, possessing little, and by reason that they gape not after temporal goods, neither proud nor ambitious. Their diet is such that the most holy Hermite cannot feed more sparingly in the wilderness. They go naked, only hiding the undecencies of nature, and a poor shag mantle about an ell or two long is their greatest and their warmest covering. They lie upon mats, only those who have larger fortunes, lye upon a kinde of net which is tied at the four corners, and so fasten'd to the roof, which the *Indians* in their natural

natural language call *Hamecks*. They are of a very apprehensive and docible wit, and capable of all good learning, and very apt to receive our Religion, which when they have but once tasted, they are carryed on with a very ardent and zealous desire to make a further progress in it; so that I have heard divers *Spaniards* confesse that they had nothing else to hinder them from enjoying heaven, but their ignorance of the true God.

To these quiet Lambs, endued with such blessed qualities, came the *Spaniards* like most cruel Tygres, Wolves, and Lions, enrag'd with a sharp and tedious hunger; for these forty years past, minding nothing else but the slaughter of these unfortunate wretches, whom with divers kinds of torments neither seen nor heard of before, they have so cruelly and inhumanely butchered, that of three millions of people which *Hispaniola* it self did contain, there are left remaining alive scarce three hundred persons. And for the Island of *Cuba*, which contains as much ground in length, as from *Valladolid* to *Rome*; it lies wholly desert, untill'd and ruin'd. The Islands of *St. John* and *Jameica* lie waste and desolate. The *Lucayan* Islands neighbouring toward the North upon *Cuba* and *Hispaniola*, being above Sixty or thereabouts with those Islands that are vulgarly called the Islands of the Gyants, of which that which is least fertile is more fruitful



then the King of *Spains* Garden at *Sevil*, being situated in a pure and temperate air, are now totally unpeopled and destroyed; the inhabitants thereof amounting to above 500000. souls, partly killed, and partly forced away to work in other places: so that there going a ship to visit those parts and to glean the remainder of those distressed wretches, there could be found no more then eleven men. Other Islands there were near the Island of *St. John* more then thirty in number, which were totally made desert. All which Islands, though they amount to such a number containing in length of ground the space of above Two thousand miles, lie now altogether solitary without any people or Inhabitant.

Now to come to the Continent, we are confident, and dare affirm upon our own knowledge, that there were ten Kingdomes of as large an extent as the Kingdome of *Spain*, joyning to it both *Arragon*, and *Portugal*, containing above a thousand miles every one of them in compass, which the unhumane and abominable villanies of the *Spaniards* have made a wilderness of, being now as it were stript of all their people, and made bare of all their inhabitants, though it were a place formerly possessed by vast and infinite numbers of men; And we dare confidently aver, that for those Forty years, wherein the *Spaniards* exercised their abominable cruelties,

cruelties, and detestable tyrannies in those parts, that there have innocently perish'd above Twelve millions of souls, women and children being numbred in this sad and fatal list; moreover I do verily believe that I should speak within compass, should I say that above Fifty millions were consumed in this Massacre.

As for those that came out of *Spain*, boasting themselves to be Christians, they took two severall waies to extirpate this Nation from the face of the Earth, the first whereof was a bloody, unjust, and cruel war which they made upon them: a second by cutting off all that so much as sought to recover their liberty, as some of the stoutest fort did intend. And as for the Women and Children that were left alive, they laid so heavy and grievous a yoke of servitude upon them that the condition of beasts was much more tolerable.

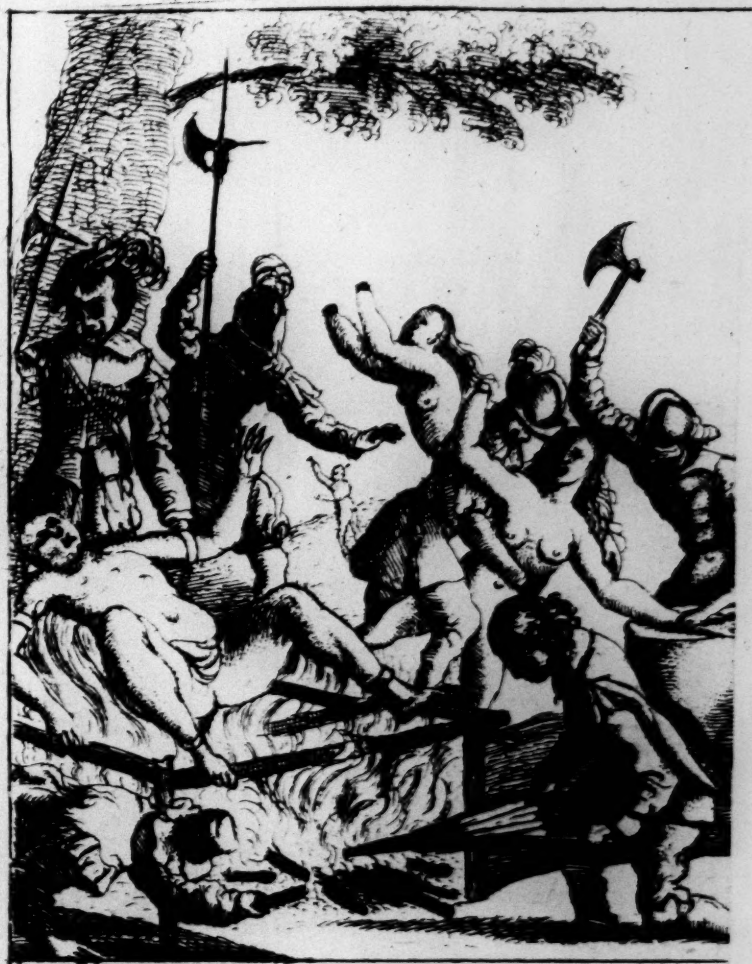
Unto these two heads all the other severall torments and inhumanities which they used to the ruine of these poor Nations may be reduced.

That which led the *Spaniards* to these unsanctified impieties was the desire of Gold, to make themselves suddenly rich, for the obtaining of dignities & honours which were no way fit for them. In a word, their covetousness, their ambition, which could not be more in any people under heaven, the



riches of the Countrey, and the patience of the people gave occasion to this their devillish barbarism. For the *Spaniards* so contemned them (I now speak what I have seen without the least untruth) that they used them not like beasts, for that would have been tolerable, but looked upon them as if they had been but the dung and filth of the earth, and so little they regarded the health of their souls, that they suffered this great multitude to die without the least light of Religion; neither is this lesse true then what I have said before, and that which those tyrants and hangmen themselves dare not deny, without speaking a notorious falshood, that the *Indians* neevr gave them the least cause to offer them violence, but received them as Angels sent from heaven, till their excessive cruelties, the torments and slaughters of their Countrymen mov'd them to take Armes against the *Spaniards*.

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## Of Hispaniola.

**I**N the Island of *Hispaniola*, to which the *Spaniards* came first, these slaughters and ruines of mankind took their beginning. They took away their women and children to serve them, though the reward which they gave them was a sad and fatal one. Their food got with great pain and dropping sweat, the *Spaniards* still consumed, not content with what the poor *Indians* gave them gratis out of their own want; One *Spaniard* consuming in one day as much as would suffice three families, every one containing ten persons. Being thus broken with so many evils, afflicted with so many torments, and handled so ignominiously, they began at length to believe that the *Spaniards* were not sent from Heaven. And therefore some of them hid their Children, others their Wives, others their Victuals in obscure and secret places; Others not being able to endure a Nation that conversed among them with such a boisterous impiety sought for shelter in the most abrupt and inaccessible mountains. For the *Spaniards* while they were among them did not only entertain

B +

them



them with cruel beating them with their fists, and with their staves, but presumed also to lay violent hands upon the Rulers and Magistrates of their Cities: and they arriv'd at that height of impudence and unheard of boldnesse, that a certain private Captain scrupled not to force the Wife of the most potent King among them. From which time forward they began to think what way they might take to expell the *Spaniards* out of their Countrey. But good God! what sort of Armes had they? such as were as available to offend or defend as bulrushes might be. Which when the *Spaniards* saw, they came with their Horsemen well armed with Sword and Launce, making most cruel havocks and slaughters among them. Overrunning Cities and Villages, where they spared no sex nor age; neither would their cruelty pity Women with childe, whose bellies they would rip up, taking out the Infant to hew it in pieces. They would often lay wagers who should with most dexterity either cleave or cut a man in the middle, or who could at one blow soonest cut off his head. The children they would take by the feet and dash their innocent heads against the rocks, and when they were fallen into the water, with a strange and cruel derision they would call upon them to swim. Sometimes they would run both Mother and Infant, being  
in







in her belly quite through at onethrust.

They erected certain Gallowfes, that were broad but so low, that the tormented creatures might touch the ground with their feet, upon every one of which they would hang thirteen persons, blasphemously affirming that they did it in honour of our Redeemer and his Apostles, and then putting fire under them, they burnt the poor wretches alive. Those whom their pity did think fit to spare, they would send away with their hands half cut off, and so hanging by the skin. Thus upbraiding their flight, *Go carry letters to those who lye hid in the mountains and are fled from us.*

This Death they found out also for the Lords and Nobles of the Land; they stuck up forked sticks in the ground, and then laid certain perches upon them, and so laying them upon those perches, they put a gentle fire under, causing the fire to melt them away by degrees, to their unspeakable torment.

One time above the rest I saw four of the Nobles laid upon these perches, and two or three other of these kinde of hurdles furnished after the same manner; the clamours and cries of which persons being troublesome to the Captain, he gave order that they should be hang'd, but the Executioner whose name I know, and whose parents are not obscure, hindred their Calamity from so quick a conclusion,  
stop.



stopping their mouthes, that they should not disturb the Captain, and still laying on more wood, till being roasted according to his pleasure, they yeilded up the ghost. Of these and other things innumerable I have been an eye-witnesse; Now because there were some that shun'd like so many rocks the cruelty of a Nation so inhumane, so void of piety and love to mankinde, and therefore fled from them to the mountains; therefore they hunted them with their Hounds, whom they bred up and taught to pull down and tear the *Indians* like beasts: by these Dogs much humane blood was shed; and because the *Indians* did now and then kill a *Spaniard*, taking him at an advantage, as justly they might; therefore the *Spaniards* made a Law among themselves, that for one *Spaniard* so slaine, they should kill a hundred *Indians*.

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*Of the Kingdomes which the Island of Hispaniola did contain.*

THE Island of *Hispaniola* had in it five very great Kingdomes, and five very potent Kings, to whom the other Lords,

Lords, of which there was a very great number were for the most part subject; for there were some few Lords of peculiar Countries that did not acknowledge the jurisdiction of these Kings; one of these Kingdomes is called *Maqua*, which signifies a plain. This Plain if there be any thing in the world worth taking notice, claims a very nice observation. For from the South to the North it is stretcht forward fourscore miles in length; in breadth it takes up sometimes eight, sometimes five, and sometimes ten miles, on all sides it is shut up with very high mountains; it is watered by thirty thousand Rivers and Rivulets, whereof twelve are not lesse then either *Duerus*, *Ebrus*, or *Guadolgevir*: and all the Rivers which run from the Mountains on the West side, whose number is twenty thousand, do all of them abound with gold. With which Mountain the Province of *Cibao* is bounded, where are the Mines of *Cibao*, that afford the most exquisite and pure Gold which is so much valued among us. This Kingdome was govern'd by *Guarionex*, who had under his jurisdiction as his vassals, Lords and Governors so potent, that every one of them was able to bring into the field for the service of *Guarionex*, above Sixteen thousand men apiece. Some of which Lords I very well knew; this King was not meanly



ly vertuous, by nature peaceful, and much devoted to the King of *Castile*. This King commanded his subjects that they should present to the *Spaniards* a bell full of Gold, which when they were not able to do by reason that the people had but little skill how to dig out the Gold, he thereupon commanded them to present the *Spaniards* with as much as they could fill.

Here a *Cacicus* or Governour offer'd himself to the service of the King of *Castile*, upon condition, that he would take care that all the Countrey from *Isabella* to *St. Domingo*, being five hundred miles in length, might be till'd; which promises I am very confident he would cheerfully have performed; and then might the King of *Castile* have had a revenue of above Three millions of *Castilian* Crowns, and there had been still remaining in the Island above fifty Cities as large all of them as *Sevill*.

But what was the recompence which they afforded to this milde and bountifull Prince? they suffered one of the Spanish Captains unworthy of the name of a Christian to vitiate his Wife. He might have raised an army and endeavoured a revenge. but he rather chose to leave his Kingdome and his dignity, and to live a banished person in the Province of *Coquaios*, where a potent vassal and subject of his inhabited. But the *Spaniards* hearing of his flight, resolved not to  
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let him lurk any where; but immediately making war upon him that had received them so liberally, they never rested till they had wasted all the Kingdome to finde him out, at length he fell into their hands; and no sooner had they taken him, but they fettered him immediately, putting him into a ship that was bound for *Spain*; but the ship was wrackt by the way, many *Spaniards* perishing, and a great treasure of Gold being lost; God so taking revenge upon their enormities.

Another Kingdome was called *Marien*, where there is a port at one end of the plain that looks toward the North, being larger and more fertile then the Kingdome of *Portugal*, and which very well deserves to be better peopled; for it abounds with Mountains wherein are great store of Gold Mines. The name of the King that there ruled was *Guacanagari*, under whom there were many other potent Lords, some of whom I knew: To this place came the old sea Captain that first discovered *America*, who was received with so much courtesie and friendship by *Guacanagari*, who gave him and his associates all the help and assistance that might be (for his ship was there sunk) that upon his return into *Spain* he would often affirm, that his own parents in his own Countrey were never so friendly to him. This  
King



King flying from the cruelty and enormous murders of the *Spaniards*, being depriv'd of his Kingdome, died poorly in the mountains. The rest of his Nobles ended their lives in that servitude and slavery which shall be hereafter related.

The third Kingdome was *Maquana*, a Countrey very temperate and fertile, where the best Sugar in that Island is made. In this Countrey at that time *Canabao* did reign, who for power, dignity, gravity, and the ceremonies which were used towards him, far exceeded the rest. This King suspecting nothing lesse, was by the craft and subtlety of the *Spaniards* taken in his own house; whom when they had taken they put a shipboard to send him to *Castile*; but there being six ships in the Port ready to set sayle, the sea began to swell so high, and to be so unruly, that all the six ships with the *Spaniards* in them, together with King *Canabao*, who was laden with chains, all perished in the waves. The great God shewing the Judgements of his wrath upon these unjust and wicked wretches as he had done upon the others. This King had three or four brothers stout and valiant men, who being offended at the Captivity of their Lord and King, hearing of the devastations and rapines daily committed by the *Spaniards* in these Countreys,

tries, and understanding that their brother was dead, resolved to take armes for the reliefe of their Countrey; but the *Spaniards* meeting them with a certain number of horse, which are a very great terror to the *Indians*, made such a slaughter among them, that they depopulated the greatest part of this Countrey.

The Fourth Kingdome was called *Xaragua*, being in the centre and middle of the whole Island, for eloquence of language, as also for good government and gentile customes, it excels all the rest, there was in it a great company of Lords and noble men, and for the people themselves they were the most comely in the whole Island. The King of this Countrey was called *Bebechio*, who had a sister who was called *Anacaona*. Both the Brother and the Sister were very bountifull to the *Spaniards*, for they had freed them from the dangers of imminent death, shewing great kindneses to the Kings of *Castile*. *Bebechio* being dead, the Kingdome was solely govern'd by his Sister. Now it happened one day, that the Governour of the Island with sixty Horse, and three hundred Foot (though the Horsemen were sufficient not only to waite the Island, but also the whole Continent) cal'd to him about three hundred of the Peers and Lords of  
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the Nation, the greatest part whereof who were the more powerful, having by craft got them together in a straw Cottage, he cause to be burnt alive together with the house, the rest with an infinite sight of people he caused to be put to death by the Souldiers, who mured the poor people like dogs with their Swords and Launces. As for *Anacaona* the Queen, that he might seem to be more courteous to her, he caused her to hang her self. And if it happened that any who were either moved with compassion, or covetousnesse, thinking to make lacqueys or servants of the Children, had set them behinde their horses, another would come behinde them, and either run them through, or cut off their legs if they hung down upon the horse sides. And when certain of the *Indians*, who escaped this furious massacre fled into an Island distant from them about some eight miles, they were by the Governour condemned to perpetual servitude.

The fifth Kingdome was called *Hiquey*, where an ancient Queen, by name *Hiquanama*, governed, who was afterward crucified by the *Spaniards*: and there was an infinite number of those whom I here saw partly burnt alive, partly torne to pieces, partly put to other tortures, or redeemed from death, to a worse misery and cap-







captivity. Now there is so much to be said concerning the slaughters and devastations made by the *Spaniards*, so many stories to be reckoned up, as would be hardly contained in writing, it being impossible to set down one thing of a hundred: for a conclusion of what I have said before, I will only adde one thing more, affirming upon my conscience, that for all the fore rehearsed enormities and villanies committed by the *Spaniards*, yet the *Indians* gave them no more occasion to perpetrate so many detestable cruelties upon them, then the most religious persons living in the most reformed Monasteries give to the Nations where they dwell, to extirpate them; and they had as little reason to condemn to a perpetual slavery that poor remnant that escaped alive. And this I shall further adde, that I do verily believe, that at that time when the *Spaniards* began this horrid persecution, they had not committed the least crime against the *Spaniards* that could merit any revenge. And this I also dare affirm, that the *Indians* had alwaies just reason to raise warre against the *Spaniards*, and that the *Spaniards* on the contrary, had never any legall cause of quarrel against them, but only alwaies an intention to exercise a fury on them greater then the most consuming and prodigal

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digal rage, that ever made the worst of tyrants infamous.

The wars being now at an end, and the inhabitants all killed up, the women and children being only reserved, they divided them among themselves, giving to one thirty, to another forty, to one a hundred, to another two hundred, and those that had most, received them on this condition, that they should instruct them in the Catholick Faith, though commonly their Masters were a company of stupid, ignorant, and covetous fellowes, and defiled with all manner of vices. But the main care was to send the men to work in the Gold Mines, which is an intolerable labour, and to send the women to manure and till the ground; an exercise fit only for the stoutest men. These they fed with nothing but roots and hearbs, so that the milk of women with childe being dried up, by that reason the poor little infants died. And the men being separated from the women, there was no more issue to be expected from them. The men perished in the Gold Mines with hunger and labour, the women perished in the fields, being tired out with the same calamities: and thus was a vast number of the inhabitants of this Island wholly extirpated. Besides all this they caused them  
to

to carry great burdens of a hundred and fourscore pound, and to travell with it a hundred or two hundred miles. They were also forc'd to carry the *Spaniards* up and down in their *Hamechs*, using them in manner of beasts to carry their burthens and the necessaries of their journeys. And as for the blows which they gave them with whips, cudgels and their fists, wherewith they continually tormented them in their labour, I could be hardly able to finde either time or paper to make a narration large enough of those things.

Now it is here to be noted that the desolation of these Islands and Provinces happened after the death of *Queen Isabel*, who deceased in the year 1504, for before that time few of the Provinces were intrenched upon by any unjust war, or over-flowed with this deluge of devastation; or if any thing was before that time done, it was conceal'd from the knowledge of the *Queen*, for she was alwayes zealous and sollicitous for the safety and prosperity of this poor people.

And this may be also a generall rule, that the *Spaniards* to what ever part of the *Indies* they did come to, after that time ceased not to exercise their abominable slaughters, tyrannies, and execrable oppressions upon the poor people,



and being delighted with new kindes of torments, daily encreased their cruelty and rage.

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*Of the Islands St. John and Jamaica.*

IN the year 1509. the Islands of *St. John* and *Jamaica* that look'd like fruitful gardens, were possessed by the *Spaniards*, with the same bloody intentions, as the other were; for there they also exercised their accustomed cruelties, killing, burning, roasting men, and throwing them to the dogs, as also by oppressing them with sundry and various torments in the Gold Mines, as if they had come to rid the earth of these innocent and harmelesse creatures, of whom above six hundred thousand were murdered in these two Islands, so lavish were the Spanish swords of the blood of these poor souls, scarce two hundred more remaining; the rest perished without the least knowledge of God.

*Of the Island of Cuba.*

**I**N the year, 1511. they went over into the Island of *Cuba*, which extends as far in length as it is from *Valladolid* to *Rome*, in which there were many fair Provinces, inhabited with an infinite number of people, where the humanity and clemency of the *Spaniards* was not only as little as it had been in other places, but their cruelty and rage much greater. In this Island many things were done worthy observation. A certain Lord of great power among them by name *Hathvey*, who had fled over to *Cuba*, that he might avoid either death or perpetual captivity, hearing by some of the *Indians* that the *Spaniards* were also come into this Island, having assembled the *Indians* together, he began as followeth:

Countrymen and Friends, you are not ignorant of the rumour by which we understand that the *Spaniards* are come among us, neither am I now to tell you how they have used the inhabitants of *Hapti* (so the call *Hispaniola*, in the Indian language) you know it by a sad experience: nor can we hope to finde



them more merciful then they did. Then quoth he, Countrey men do you know the Errand which brings them hither? To whom they replied, that was unknown to them, yet they further replied, that that they were well assured of the cruel nature of the Spaniard. Then quoth he, Ile tell ye the cause of their coming. They do worship some covetous and unsatisfied Deity, and to content the greedy worship of that Celestial Power, they require many things from us, using all their endeavour to murder and enslave us. Which having said, taking up a little Chest filled with Gold, he proceeded in these words: Behold here the God of the Spaniards, and therefore if you think fitting, let us daunce and sing before this their God, Perhaps we may thereby appease his rage, and he will then command the Spaniards to let us alone: Who with an unanimous shout cryed out all, Well said, well said; and so they went to dauncing round this box, not ceasing till they had sufficiently wearied themselves. Then the Lord Hathvey going on with his speech, quoth he, If we do keep this God till he be taken from us, we shall be surely slain, and therefore I think it expedient for us to cast it into the River; so his counsell being followed, the Chest was cast into the River.

When the Spaniards had landed in this Island, this noble man that had sufficient  
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tryal of their manner, avoided them as much as he could, still flying from them and defending himself by force of armes upon all occasions. But at length being taken, for no other reason, but because he fled from those that sought his life, and defended himself that he might not be tormented to death, he was by the *Spaniards* burnt alive. While he was tyed to the stake, there came to him a Monk of the Order of *St. Francis*, who began to talk to him of God and of the Articles of our Faith, telling him, that the small respite which the Executioner gave him was sufficient for him to make sure his salvation if he believed. Upon which words after *Hathvey* had a little while paus'd, he asked the Monk if the door of heaven was open to the *Spaniards*, who answering, *Yes, to the good Spaniards*. Then replied the other, Let me go to Hell that I may not come where they are.

It happened once that the Citizens of a very fair City distant about twelve miles from the place where we were, came forth of the City to do us honour, and to submit themselves to the King of *Castile*, but they being returned home, the Governour of the *Spaniards* about the middle of the night as they were sleeping in their bed, and least suspecting any such thing, sent a



company who came suddenly upon them, and set fire upon their houses, burning up both men, women and children, here some they murdered, others whom they spared, they tormented to make them tell where they had hid their Gold, after which they made them their slaves, having first marked them in the body: and immediately as soon as the fire was spent, they ran to finde out the Gold. At that time the *Spaniards* got above ten hundred thousand Crowns of Gold, out of which the King scarce had three hundred thousand sent him; there were slain in this place eight hundred thousand people; and those other Tyrants that came afterwards, emptied the Island of those that remained.

Among all the notorious enormities committed by the foresaid Governour, there is one not to be omitted: a certain noble *Indian* presenting him, perhaps more for fear then love, a present of above nine thousand Crowns, the *Spaniards* not content with this, tied him to a stake, and stretching out his Legs, put fire to them, requiring a greater sum of Gold, who not able to endure the torment sent home for three thousand more; notwithstanding the *Spaniards* with a fresh rage began to torment him again, but seeing that he was able to give them no more, they kept him so long  
over

over the fire till his marrow dropt from the soles of his feet, whereof he died. These were the torments wherewith they murdered not only the common People, but the Peers and Lords of those Nations.

Sometimes it would happen, that a Band of *Spaniards* ranging abroad would light upon a mountain where the *Indians* were fled for protection from their cruelty, where they immediately fell upon the *Indians*, killing the Men, and taking the Women and Virgins captive; & when a great company of the *Indians* pursued them with weapons for the recovery of their Wives and Children, they resolving not to let go their prey, when the *Indians* came near them, immediately with the points of their swords ran the poor Women and Children through the bodies. Upon which the wretched *Indians* beating their breasts for grief would now and then burst forth in these words, *O perverse men, O cruel Spaniards, What will ye kill helplese women?*

There was the house of a Noble man distant from *Panama* above 15. miles; he was by name called *Paris*, and he was very wealthy in Gold; to him the *Spaniards* came, and by him they were entertained like Brothers, he giving to the Captain, as a Present, fifteen thousand Crowns; who by that per-



perceiving that he must of necessity have a very great treasure, feigned a departure, but about the middle of the night returning again entred the City, set it on fire, sacrificing the poor people to the flames. Hence they took away about fifty or sixty thousand Crowns. The Noble man escaping, gathered together what force he could and made after the *Spaniards*, who were gone away with no lesse then a hundred and forty thousand Crowns of his own Treasure; when he had overtaken them, he fell upon them, and having slain above fifty of the *Spaniards*, he recovered his Gold again. The rest saved themselves by flight. But not long after the *Spaniards* returned with greater force upon the Noble man and having routed him, made slaves of all his people.

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*Of*

*Of the Province of Nicaragua.*

**I**N the year 1522. the foresaid Governour went to subdue the Province of *Nicaragua*. There is no man that can sufficiently expresse the fertility of this Island, the temperateness of the air, or the multitude of the people that did inhabit it. There was a vast number of people in this Province, for it contained divers cities above four mile in length: and for plenty of fruits (which was the cause that it was so extremely well habited) without compare. This people because their Countrey was all plain and level, had not the shelter of the Mountains, neither could they be easily perswaded to leave it, so pleasant was their habitation. And therefore they endured far the greater misery, and persecution, and underwent a more unsufferable slavery, being the lesse able to bear it, by how much they were of a milde and gentle nature. This Tyrant vex'd and tormented these poor creatures with so many continual injuries, slaughters, captivities and cruelties, that no tongue is able to expresse them. Into this territory he sent above fifty horse, who totally extirpated the people of this  
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Province by the Sword, sparing no age nor sex, not for any wrong they did them, but sometimes it came not so speedily when they called as they expected, or if they brought not such quantities of corn as they imposed, or if they did not bring a sufficient quantity of *Indians* to their service: for the Countrey being in a plain there was no avoiding the fury of the Horsemen.

He commanded these *Spaniards* to go pillage and depopulate other Countreys, permitting to these Robbers, and Hangmen, to bring away and enslave what number of these poor people they pleased: whom they laded with chains that weighed above sixty or fifty pound, that they might not have the opportunity of escaping, so that it seldome hapned that above four in four thousand returned home; and if either through the weight of their chains, or for hunger or thirst they did chance to faint by the way, because they would not hinder their journey, they cut off their heads immediately, throwing the head in one place and the body in another. And the poor captive *Indians* when they saw the *Spaniards* preparing for such journeys, at their departure would weep and fall into these kinde of sad expressions, These are the journeys that we have often gone, to serve the

the Christians, and then we could return home again to visit our Wives and Children, but now all hope is cut off from us, and we must never see them more.

It happened also, by reason that it came into the Governors minde to change the *Indians* from one Master to another, pretending to take away force from some that he saw began to envie him, that there was no seed time nor harvest for a whole year; now rather then the *Spaniards* would want, they took it from the *Indians*, by which means there perished no lesse then thirty thousand people; which caused one woman for hunger to eat her own childe.

And because these Cities and other places were such pleasant abodes, therefore the *Spaniards* took up their habitations in these places, dividing the possessions among themselves; and as for the *Indians*, both old and young they lived in the houses of the *Spaniards*, drudging day & night in a perpetual captivity, who spared not the smallest children, but impos'd on them burdens as much as they were able to bear, and sometimes more; & by this means allowing them neither houses nor any thing else proper to themselves, they destroyed them daily, and do daily destroy them: so that they exceeded the cruelties which they had committed in *Hispaniola*.

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They hastned also the death of many of these poor people, by forcing them to carry timber and planks for shipping to the port that was distant about thirty miles from this place; compelling them also to fetch honey and wax from the Mountains, where they were many times devoured by the Tygres. Neither were they ashamed to lade and burthen Women with childe, as if they had been only beasts for carriage.

But there was no greater plague that depopulated this Countrey, then a liberty granted by the Governour to the *Spaniards*, for the requiring of slaves and captives from the Nobles and potent men of the Kingdome; who as often as the *Spaniards* obtained leave to demand them, which was every four or five moneths, and sometimes oftner, gave them constantly fifty servants, whom the *Spaniards* still threatned, that if they would not be obedient, they would either burn them alive, or throw them to the dogs. Now because the *Indians* have but few servants, for it is a very great matter to see above three servants in that place waiting upon a Noble man; therefore the Nobility were faine to come to their subjects, from whom first they took all the Orphans, then coming to those that had many children, from them  
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that had two they took one, and from those who had three they demanded two; and thus they were fain to make up the Number which the threatening Tyrant required, while the poor people wept and deplor'd the sad misfortune of their Children, over whom they are very tender. Which being done for a daily continuance, in ten or twelve years they made a clean riddance of the inhabitants out of this place. For every foot there came five or six ships which returned full of *Indians* into the Regions of *Panama* and *Peru*, where they were sold, and ended their daies in captivity. For experience hath taught us this, that when ever the *Indians* are removed from their accustomed habitations into other climates, they quickly die; the *Spaniards* neither affording them sufficient food, nor in times of sicknesse diminishing their labour, for which end they were only bought. And thus the number of people hurried from the enjoyment of their freedome into a sad and laborious captivity, amounted to five hundred thousand souls, of which above fifty or sixty thousand are already perished, and more daily perish. All these Massacres were committed within the space of fourteen years. There may be now remaining in the Province of *Nicaragua* perhaps some four or  
five



five thousand men, though they daily diminish through the immoderate oppressions of the *Spaniards*. Notwithstanding in former time for number of people, it was the most flourishing place in the whole world.

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*Of New Spain.*

**I**N the year 1517. *New Spain* was discovered; after the discovery of which they did nothing first or second, but immediately fell to their old practises of cruelty and slaughter: for in the following year the *Spaniards* (who call themselves Christians) went thither to rob and kill; though they gave out that they went to people the Countrey. From that year unto this present year 1542. the violence, injustice and tyrannies of the *Spaniards* came to their full height; and now quite forgetting their humane natures, they laid aside all fear of God or of their King. For the slaughters, massacres, cruelties, devastations of Countreys, destructions of Cities, violences, tyrannies, and rapines of the *Spaniards*, which they did commit in these

these so many several and so large Kingdomes, are so numberlesse, and strike the minde with such a horror, that those which we have before related, are nothing in respect of these which we are to relate, being all perpetrated in the year 1518. and continued to this very moneth in a most sad and dreadfull manner; so that what we said before holds very true, that the *Spaniards* still went on from bad to worse, themselves striving to exceed themselves in wickednesse.

And thus from the first entry of the *Spaniards* into *New Spain*, which happened upon the tenth day of the moneth of *April*, continuing from the eighteenth year untill the thirtieth, in which space of time are contained twelve years compleat, there hath been no end of the bloody massacres and cruel slaughters of the *Spaniards*, perpetrated in the continent of *Mexico* and the parts adjoyning, which contained four or five large Kingdomes, that neither for compassse nor fertility gave place to *Spain*. All this region was more populous then either *Toledo*, *Sevill*, *Valadolid*, *Augusta Cesarea*, or *Faventia*; nay I may affirm that there is not at this present, neither was there when those places were at the highest of their flourishing estate, so many people as in those parts, which take up the space of

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above



above a thousand and eight hundred miles. In these ten or twelve years, what with Men, Women, Youths, and Children, above four millions were by the *Spaniards* consumed part by fire, part by the sword in these destructive wars; wars more unjust and more condemn'd both by the Law of God and men, then any invasion of the *Turk* against the Catholique Religion. Neither do we now reckon those that died under the intolerable yoke and burdens of their captivity.

There is no language, no art or humane science, that can avail to recite the abominable crimes and bloody actions committed by these enemies not only of Commonwealths, but of all humane societies; neither can any diligence, or time of writing sufficiently aggravate the circumstances of these detestable deeds. Notwithstanding something I shall say of every one of them; though I do seriously protest, that I cannot rehearse one thing of a thousand in respect of all that were done.

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of New Spain in particular.

**A**Mong other grand murders of theirs, they committed one more notorious in the City *Cholula*, which did contain above thirty thousand families. All the potent men of that Region, with the Priests who brought along with them their chief Priest also, came to meet the *Spaniards*; and that their reception and entertainment might be the more honourable, they agreed to entertain the *Spaniards* in the houses of the greatest Noble men; but here the *Spaniards* consulted how to begin their massacres, or as they call'd them, chastisements of the people, that they might keep in awe every corner of the Countrey with the terror of their cruelties. For this was their common custome, that they no sooner had set footing in any place, but they committed immediately some notorious violence upon the people, that the rest might stand in the greater fear of them. They sent therefore to the supreme Lord of the City, as also to all the other Lords and Governours, that they should give them a meeting, but they were no sooner come to parley, but they were all immediately



diately laid hold on, leaving none to carry back these bad tidings to the rest; first they demanded of them six thousand *Indians*, to carry the Luggage which they had with them, which when they were brought together they shut up in their houses. It was a sad spectacle to behold this poor people preparing themselves to carry those burthens. They came naked, covering only their secret parts, and at their shoulders hung a little Net wherein they kept their food; and thus while they stooped under their burthens, they lay open to all the cuts and blowes of the Spanish weapons. Now being in this manner gathered together in a great and wide place, part of the *Spaniards* all in armes, stood at the door to keep the rest out, while others with Swords and Launces kill'd the innocent Lambs, so that not one escaped. After three or four daies were expired, some that had hid themselves among the dead bodies all over besmeered with bloud, came with all submission imploring mercy and compassion from them; but they not at all regarding their tears, nor moved with their lamentations, immediately hew'd them to pieces. All the Lords and Noble men, were kept a while in chains, and afterward at the Commandement of the Spanish Captain, tied to stakes and burnt to death.

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But the King of the whole Countrey escaped, with about thirty or forty men, be- taking himself to a Temple which was like a Castle, and in their language called *Quu*; there defending himself a good part of the day; but the *Spaniards* out of whose hand few of them, especially the souldiery escap'd, setting the Temple on fire, burnt them all that were within alive, who as they were dying, brake forth into these lamentations: O wicked men, how have we injured you, that you should thus torment us? Away, away to *Mexico*, where our chief Lord *Montenchuma* will revenge our quarrel. This is also reported that while the *Spaniards* were busily acting this bloody Tragedy, killing and destroying above six thousand innocent creatures, their chief Captain in sport sung these verses:

One flame the Roman 'City now de-  
stroyes,  
And shrieks of people made a dismal  
noyse,  
While Nero sung, and moved with de-  
light,  
From *Tarpey* Hill beheld the wofull  
fight.

Another butchery was by them commit-  
ted in the City of *Tepeaca*, which was a  
D 3 much



much larger City then the former. Here they put to the sword an infinite number of people, with many additions of cruelty.

Departing from *Cholula* they came to *Mexico*, the King whereof *Montenchuma* sent the Peers and Nobles of this Realm with innumerable presents to meet them, who all the way testified by several sports and solemnities, the joy which they had for their arrivall; When they approached neer the wal of the City, the Kings Brother came forth with many Noble men to meet him, who brought many gifts of Gold and Silver, to present them with. Coming to the entry of the City, there stood the King himself with all his attendants, who being carried in a golden Litter accompanied them to the Palace which was prepared for them. But that very day, as was told me by some that were there, they seized upon the King, little suspecting any such matter, setting a guard upon his person of above eighty Souldiers: after that they put him in chains. But here passing by many things which might be said; I will relate one thing worthy observation. The Governor being call'd away to quell one of his Captains that had taken armes against him, and having left *Montenchuma* with a guard of above a hun-

hundred, it came into the mindes of the *Spaniards* to do something which might render them dreadful and terrible to the *Indians*; which was a policy, as I said before, they did often use. In the mean while all the Nobility and commonalty of the City minded nothing else but to exhilarate the minde of their captive King with several varieties of sports and recreations. Among which there was none that they used more then dancings and revellings, which they performed all night long in the streets. These exercises they in their language call'd *Mirotas*, but the Islanders *Areytos*. To these recreations they bring together all their wealth and richest garments, and what ever they do esteem precious; using them as the greatest testimonies of gladness. The Nobles also and Princes of the Royal bloud every one according to their degree, were busie in these sports in those places which were nearest the houses where the King was detained captive. Not far from the Palace there were above two thousand youths, being all the children of the Nobility, and indeed the flower of the Nobility which were in *Mantenchuma's* Kingdome. To these came the Captain of the *Spaniards* with a small party of Soldiers, sending other Troops to other parts of the City, as if they only came to be



spectators. But the Captain had given command that at a certain hour they should fall upon them; and he himself being about to lead the way, cry'd out, *St. Jago*, let us rush in upon them. The word being thus given, the Souldiees all fell on, and with their swords began to hack and hew those delicate bodies, spilling that generous and noble blood with such an unheard of malice, that they left not one alive. And doing thus to others in other places, there fell a dismal fear and amazement upon the whole Countrey. Nor will these poor creatures doubtlesse ever forget as long as the world stands, to lament and bewail in their solemnities the sad calamity and ruine of the whole seminary of their Nobility, of which they were wont so much to boast.

The *Indians* beholding this unheard of cruelty and injustice committed upon such a number of innocent souls, having with long patience endured the captivity of their King, who had charg'd them to be quiet, now ran all to their arms, and falling upon the *Spaniards*, wounded many, the rest narrowly escaping: at length the *Spaniards* putting a Dagger to the brest of the King *Montencuma* threatned to kill him unlesse he would look through the window and command his subjects to lay down their

their armes. But the *Indians* at that time contemning the commands of their King, chose them a Captain whom they made chief Commander of all their Forces. By this time the forementioned Governour was returned from subduing his enemy, bringing with him a greater number of *Spaniards* then he carryed away with him. Whereupon the *Indians* desisted from doing any thing more untill he was entered into the City. But then gathering together very great Forces, they fought so vigorously, that the *Spaniards* despairing of victory resolved to retreat in a tempestuous night and to leave the City. Which being known to the *Indians*, they cut off abundance of them upon the bridges of the Lakes: neither can any man deny but that they did it justly, for the reasons above rehearsed. Afterwards the *Spaniards* having recollected more forces, there followed that great contention in the City, wherein they committed so many several butcheries upon the *Indians*, by killing and burning both the Commonalty and the Nobility in a most barbarous manner.

Having committed so many detestable slaughters upon the *Indians* in *Mexico*, and other places distant ten, fifteen and twenty miles from thence, this tyrannical plague pro-



proceeded to infest and depopulate the City of *Panuco*. There was a wonderful frequency of people in that Countrey, neither were the slaughters, that were there committed, lesse remarkable. In the like manner they laid waste the Provinces of *Tatepeca*, *Ipilcingonium*, and *Columa*, every one of which is of as large a compasse as the Kingdomes of *Legiona* and *Castile*. It is a very hard thing, if not altogether impossible, to recite all the murthers and cruelties there committed; besides that, it would cloy the reader.

Here we must observe, that they entred into these Kingdomes and territories, (which for the abundance of people ought to have been the joy of all true Christians) upon no pretence, but as they said to reduce them to slavery. For at their first entrance they commanded them to swear fealty and obedience to the King of *Spain*, & those that would not come in and submit themselves to the will of such unjust and cruel men, they proclaimed rebels, and and accus'd them of that crime to the King. The blindness of the chief Governours of the *Indies* not permitting them to discern, that no man can be called a Rebelle who is not before a Subject.

This cruel Tyrant leaning upon this pretence, sent two other Captains excell-  
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ling himself in fury, and impiety to *Guatemala* the most fertile and most flourishing Kingdome both for men and fruit of any that were situated southward. They had also received commands to visit the Kingdomes of *Naco*, *Honduras*, and *Guaimara* looking toward the north, and being distant from *Mexico* above three hundred miles; the one was sent by land, the other by sea, being both of them well furnished with men and ammunition for Horse and Foot.

And this I dare affirm, that the enormities committed by these two Captains, and by him especially that was sent to *Guatemala* (for the other dyed an evill death in good time) are enough to fill a particular volume, so many were the slaughters, violences, injuries, butcheries, and beastly desolations which they perpetrated, as do not only amaze the present, but must of necessity strike a horror into future ages: for in this place their abominations and devastations were more fatal then in any place before.

As for him that went by sea, he vex'd all the shore with his incursions and cruelties, to whom there came certain out of the Kingdome of *Yucatan*, which lies in the way to the Kingdomes of *Naco*, and *Naymura*, whither he was then marching, and brought



brought him many presents, yet he was no sooner come into the Countrey, but he sent the souldiers to depopulate and waste the same, who ceased not to commit many abominable outrages. Among the rest, a certain seditious rebel entering into a region bordering upon *Guatemala*, burnt up their City, killing the Inhabitants, and laying waste all the Countrey, which he did on purpose, that if he should be pursued by his enemies, they might be liable to the revenge of the *Indians* as they passed along; which happened accordingly, for there the chief Commander from whose power the foresaid Captain had rebell'd, was slain; but he was succeeded by many other fell tyrants, who with their wonted cruelties and captivity destroyed the people, selling them to those that brought garments and other provision, and by that kinde of servitude, which they practised from the year 1524. to the year 1535. they depopulated and made desert the provinces of *Naco* and *Honduras*, which seemed to be the *Elysium* and *Paradise* of the world in every respect. And I have lately seen them so destroyed, that it would move the most stony heart to compassion. In these eleven years there perished in this Countrey above two millions, scarce two thousand now remaining,

maining, who daily diminish through the hardnesse of their servitude.

But as for that abominable tyrant that exceeded all that were before in tyranny, and is equall to all that remains behinde, let us now finde him out in *Guatimala*.

He going through the Provinces adjoyning to *Mexico* toward *Guatimala*, which are above four hundred miles in length, minded nothing else all the way he went, but slaughters, rapines, burnings, depopulations, compelling all upon the foresaid pretence to submit themselves to their cruelties, in the name of the King of *Spain*, whom they had never seen nor heard of, and whom they could not but think more unjust and cruel then his Ministers and Officers, yet giving them no time to deliberate, they wasted all before them with fire and sword.

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Of



*of the Kingdome and Province of Guatimala.*

**A**T their first entrance into this Kingdome they committed a very great outrage. But for all that their chief Lord and Governor carried in a Litter came forth to meet him with Drums and Trumpets, and great joy; attended by many of the Nobles of the City of *Utlacan* the greatest Mart Town of that Kingdome, where they gave him provisions in abundance, with all that he could desire. That night the *Spaniards* lodg'd without the City, not thinking themselves safe in a Town so well fortified as that was. The next day he called to him the chief Lord with a great number of the Nobles, demanding of them a very great quantity of Gold. They returning him answer, that they could not satisfie his request by reason that their Countrey afforded not Gold, were immediately by his command, without any cause or form of proceeding, all burnt alive. The rest of the Nobles of these Provinces, seeing that all the chiefest of them, who had the power and government of the Kingdome in their hands, were  
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for no cause put to death, but because they were not able to give them gold, fled to the mountains for safety, charging their subjects to submit themselves to the *Spaniards*, but not to tell them where their sculking places were, nor to give them notice of their flight. Whereupon an infinite number of the *Indians* came to the *Spaniards* requesting that they might be their subjects, and that they might serve them. The Captain made answer, that he would not receive them, and that moreover he would kill them all unless they would declare whither their Lords were fled: the *Indians* replied, That they knew nothing of it, but their *Wives and Children* they said were ready to serve them, adding, that they were at home in their houses, whither they might goe, and either kill them or use them as they pleas'd; which offers they made to them again and again. But strange to tell, the *Spaniards* demanded their *Cities and Towns*, killing these poor creatures, who as they thought were secure at their work. They came to a very large Town, which being confident of their own innocence, thought themselves safer than the rest; but in two hours space they brought such a desolation upon it, killing all ages and sexes, that there was not a person left alive, but what saved themselves



selves by flight. The *Indians* perceiving that with all their humility, their patience, and their presents, that they were not able to assuage the fury of these inhumane creatures, and that they were daily killed up like dogs, began to think of taking armes; for they thought it better, since an evill death could not be avoided, rather to die fighting and taking revenge upon their enemies, then to be killed like beasts by them. But when they saw their want of armes, their feebleness, their nakedness, and that they were utterly unskillfull in the management of horses, that they might have some way of prevailing upon their enemies, it came in their minds to dig certain ditches in the waies, that so the horses as they went along might fall into them: at the bottome of these pits they had driven in stakes sharpened at the top, and they had covered them over with clods of earth that they might not be discovered; twice or thrice the *Spaniards* fell into these ditches, but afterwards by their care they easily avoided them. And therefore they made a Law among themselves, that all the *Indians* which they took, of what ever sex or degree, should be thrown into those pits which they had made: Into these pits they threw women big with childe, and all the aged persons that they could

could light upon, till the pit was full. It was a sad sight to behold women with child goar'd through the body with these stakes; while others that lay uppermost were killed with swords and launces; those that would not in were cast to their dogs. They burnt a very potent Peer of the Nation in a great fire, saying that he was much honoured with that kinde of death.

Among other abominations committed by this Captain and his followers, who were not at all more gentle then their leader, this was one more memorable then the rest. Into the Province of *Cuzcatan*, where the City of our Saviour is situated, being a Countrey, which together with the neighbouring sea coast is extended about forty or fifty miles in length; and also into the City of *Cuzcatan* it self, which is the Metropolis of the whole Countrey, he was received with very great joy, the *Indians* expecting his coming, laden with a present of above thirty thousand *Turkies* and other things necessary for their refreshment. But he having received their gift, commanded the *Spaniards* every one of them to take as many *Indians* as they pleased, and to keep them for service as long as they should stay there. Whereupon every one took a hundred lesse or more, according as his occasions required. And as for the poor

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Captives they served them with so much zeal and affection, that they could require nothing more then adoration it self. After this the Captain required of the people a great quantity of Gold, who returned him answer, that they would give him all the Gold they had. Whereupon the *Indians* brought together a great company of spears which were gilt with Orichalcum, so that they seemed to be gold; but the Captain causing them to be touched, and not finding them to be gold, spake thus to the people, *All curses light upon such a Region as this, wherein there is no Gold*; and then commanded all those that had taken servants, to keep them in chains, and to mark them with the mark of servitude, which was immediately done, the Kings mark being burnt into their flesh; which I saw also done to the son of the chiefeest man in all the City. Those *Indians* that escaped with the rest of the inhabitants of the Countrey, gathered themselves together, resolving to hazard a war with the *Spaniards*, but alas with small prosperity, there being an infinite number of them slain. After this they returned to *Guatemala*, where they built a City, which God in his justice destroy'd, overwhelming it, first with earth, then with stones of a vast bignesse, and lastly, letting in upon it

a great deluge of waters. Now after that they had slain all that were able to make resistance against them, they carried away the rest into captivity, or forced them to give away their children as tribute due to the *Spaniards*, for they use the service of no other creatures. And thus part being sold into the Countreys of *Peru*, and part destroyed by the sword, they made a wilderness of one of the most happy and populous Countreys of those parts, stretching out in length and breadth above a hundred miles. This the tyrant himself confessed, writing that this County was more populous than the County of *Mexico*, as indeed it was. This man in the space of fifteen years, which was from the year 525. to 540. together with his associates, massacred no less than five millions of men, and do daily destroy those that are yet remaining. It was the custom of this Tyrant, when he made war upon any Town or Countrey, to carry along with him as many as he could of the subdued *Indians*, compelling them to make war upon their Countreymen, and when he had ten or twenty thousand men in his service, because he could not give them provision, he permitted them to eat the flesh of those *Indians* that they had taken in war: for which cause he had a kind of shambles in his



Army for the ordering and dressing of mans flesh, suffering Children to be killed and broyled in his presence. The men they killed only for their hands and feet, for those they accounted dainties. Which being understood by the neighbours, they were all struck with astonishment.

Moreover, he destroyed not a few by compelling them to carry ships from one shore to another, causing them to bear great vessels, together with their Anchors of an extraordinary weight from the North sea to the South, being distant one from the other a hundred and thirty miles. And thus, also they carryed their Artillery from one place to another, putting them upon their naked shoulders, whereby being oppressed with the monstrous weight of those burdens, they sunk down often of them in the way, of which I was many times an eye-witnesse. He divided and separated families, taking women from their husbands, daughters from their parents, which he gave to the Sea-men and Souldiers. All his ships he filled with *Indians*, where they died for hunger and for thirst. And truly if I should relate all his particular cruelties, I should make a book only to scare and affright men. He had two great Navies, wherein like lightning from heaven he consumed these poor wretches.







wretches. Oh how many children did he deprive of their parents, how many men of their wives, how many wives did he make widowes, how many widowes did they vitiate, how many married women adulterate, how many virgins did they ravish, how many did they enslave, how many did he cause to languish in calamity, how many tears, how many sighs did he provoke, upon how many did he bring desolation in his worldly pilgrimage, and endanger their damnation in the world to come? and this not only to the *Indians* that suffered, but to the *Spaniards* whom he encouraged in wickednesse, and who assisted him in the committing so many hainous and abominable murders. I do beseech God that he would be merciful to him, and let his wrath be satisfied with that judgement which he hath already inflicted on him.

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*of New Spain. As also of Panucon, and Xalisco.*

**T**Hese horrid murders and massacres being committed, besides others that I have omitted, in the Provinces of *New Spain*, there came another cruel and furious Tyrant into the Provinces of *Panucon*, who having perpetrated many hainous iniquities, and sent great numbers of the Natives to be sold in the Countreys of *Spain*, laid waste all this Kingdome: and once it hapned that they used eight hundred of the *Indians* in stead of a team to draw their carriages, as if they had been meer beasts and irrational creatures. He was afterwards made President of the City of *Mexico*, and with him many other his fellow tyrants advanced to the office of Auditors; which Offices they contaminated with so many impieties and abominations, that it is hardly to be imagined. And as for this Countrey it self, they so far destroyed it, that if some of the *Franciscan Friers* had not strenuously opposed him, and that the Kings Council had not provided a sudden remedy for it, in two years space they had wholly depopulated  
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*New Spain*, as they had done in *Hispaniola*. One of the Associates of the President that he might enclose his Garden with a wall, used the service of eight thousand *Indians*, and because he afforded them neither food, nor wages, they all perished after a most sad and lamentable manner.

After the first Captain, of whom we spake before, had put an end to the destruction of *Panuco*; and that there came newes to him that the Kings Councell was coming into these parts, he went further into the Countrey, that he might exercise his cruelties with more liberty, and caused fifteen or twenty thousand of the *Indians* to follow and carry the burthens of the *Spaniards*, of whom scarce two hundred returned alive, the rest being all destroyed; at length they came to the Province of *Machucaca* which is distant above forty miles from *Mexico*, and is nothing at all inferior to the other either for plenty of provision, or number of people; the king coming to meet him with all shewes of respect and honour, they put in prison because he was reported to be very rich: which that they might get from him, they thus tormented him; having put his feet in a kinde of stocks, and stretching out his body, they tyed his hands to a stake, and then put-



ring fire to his feet, while a boy was set to baste them with oyle, that they might roast the better; there stood another also with dogs behind him, threatening to set them upon him; which if he had done, they would have soon put an end to his life: and with these torments they vexed him, to make him bring his treasures to light. At length there came a Franciscan Frier who freed him from his torments, but not from death, which immediately ensued. With this kinde of torture they put to death many other of the Princes and Noble men of the Countrey.

About this time a certain man who came to visit their purses rather than their souls, knowing the *Indians* to be adorers of Idols, for the *Spaniards* had not taught them better, kept them captive till they had delivered all their Images, for they thought that they had been all of Gold, but when they found themselves deceived, he inflicted upon them punishments as if they had committed some great offence, and because he would not utterly lose their hopes, caused them to redeem their Idols with Gold, to adore them; and thus did the *Spaniards* procure the worship of God among the *Indians*.

This Tyrant out of the Province of *Panuco*, went to *Methuaca* and *Xalisco*, which were

were Countreys fruitful both in men and money, and no small glory of the *Indian* Nation, having Cities that were in length above seven miles. When he came into these Countreys, the *Indians*, as they were wont, met him with accustomed signes of joy and gladnesse; but he immediately brake forth into his wonted cruelties, to attain his usual scope, which was the heaping up of Gold, the only God which they adore. The Cities they burnt to the ground; Their Princes, having first tormented them, they carried away captive, binding them in chains. Women with childe, without any consideration of their weaknesse, they oppressed with tedious labours and hunger, that they dy'd by the way. And as for their Children, because they could not carry them, they were forc'd to throw them away, by which a number of Infants were destroyed.

There being a certain Christian who went about to defile a virgin, her mother interposed her self, and would have taken the daughter from him; the *Spaniard* drawing forth his dagger, cut off her hand, and afterwards slew the virgin, because she would not give consent to his lustful desire.

Among other things also this was most unjust, that they caused to be marked with the mark of slavery above four thousand  
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five hundred of the Indians that were all as free born as themselves; among which they also caused to be thus marked children of two, three or four years old, though they were all such as came forth to meet him with great acclamations of joy; other things without number I passe by in silence.

All these above mentioned abominations being done, they reduced the rest to a tyrannicall subjection, for which cause they thought that they were only sent thither. In which regions the said Governour gave liberty to all the *Spaniards*, especially to his Stewards and Officers, to exercise what tortures they pleased upon the *Indians* to draw out of them the knowledge where their treasure lay. His Steward in times of peace kill'd many *Indians*, burning some, and casting other to his dogs, cutting off others hands, legs, and heads, that thereby their minds being totally subjected they should never deny where their Gold or treasure lay hid. All these things were done, the Tyrant himself beholding and consenting; and not only so, but they oppressed them and continually abused them with stripes and blowes of their canes and fists, leaving no cruelty unexercised toward them. In this Kingdome of *Xalisco* they consumed by fire six thousand villages, upon which

which the *Indians* growing desperate, seeing the remainder of those that escaped daily destroyed; they made an insurrection against the *Spaniards*, and killing some of them, as they well deserved, they betook themselves again to the Mountains. But the cruelties and injuries of the Tyrants that went from these parts to depopulate (which they called discover) other Regions overtaking them; many *Indians* were by them slain, while they fought to defend themselves in the rocks: and to this present there are a thousand Butcheries committed upon them; whereby there are hardly left any people in the whole Countrey. And thus the *Spaniards* being blinded and forsaken by God, and given over to a reprobate sense, considered not how unagreeable both to the Law of God and nature were their proceedings against the *Indians*, how unjustly they went about to destroy them by force of armes, and not only to cast them out of their Countrey, but to torture them and cut them in pieces: nor do they see how impious their violences and tyrannies are over these poor people; they do believe and do affirme both in deed and word, that those victories which they have obtained and used to the



the destruction of the *Indians*, as if their unjust wars were of right, and are so impudent as to give God thanks for them : like those thieves of whom *Zachary* speaks in the eleventh Chapter, the third and fourth Verses. Feed the flock of the slaughter, whose possessors slay them and hold themselves not guilty, and they that sell them say, Blessed be the Lord, for I am rich.

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*Of the Kingdome of Yucatan.*

**I**N the year 1526. a vile and impious man through his sawning and lying, was made Governour of the Kingdome of *Yucatan*; which was the manner that other tyrants used for the obtaining of their preferments and offices; for by their authority they had greater opportunities to do mischief. This Kingdome did abound with people both because of the temper of the air, and for the plenty of provision, in which it excelled the Countrey of *Mexico*. But those things for which it is chiefly famous are Hony and Wax, which it afforded to all the Countreys of *India*, which have been hitherto discovered. It is three hundred miles in compasse. This Nation either as to policy and good government, or as to their way of living and conversation, excelled all the rest; and well deserved to have had more knowledge of the true God. There there might have been erected by the *Spaniards* many brave and large Cities where they might have liv'd as in a Paradise, had they not rendred themselves totally unworthy of any such benefits through their own enormities and im-



impieties. This Tyrant with three hundred men made war upon these innocent *Indians* living peaceably in their houses, and offering injury to none, destroying many people. And because the Countrey hath no Gold, for if it had they had soon ended the lives of the inhabitants, by digging in the Mines, making a gain of those bodies and souls for which Christ died, therefore those that they left alive, they made slaves of, sending whole ships away freighted with people, bartering them for Wine, Oyle, Vinegar, Pork, Horses, and other things which they stood in need of. Out of fifty or a hundred Virgins which he had chosen out, he exchanged the best of them for the smallest vessell of Wine, Oyle, Vinegar or Pork: and once it chanced that a youth who was the Son of a Prince, was exchanged for a Cheese, and a hundred persons for a horse. This was his employment, from the year 26. to 33. till newes was brought of the Regions of *Peru*, whither the *Spaniards* going put an end to their villanies here for a small time. But after some daies were past over, they returned again to their former rapines and dishonouring of God by their wicked courses; neither have they yet made an end, so that now three hundred miles of Land lie untill'd and void of inhabitants. The particulars

ticulars of their cruelty are not to be remembred, only two or three that come into my minde I will relate.

While the *Spaniards* were hunting after the *Indians* with their dogs, they met with an *Indian Women*, who being sick and seeing that she was not able to escape them, taking a rope hang'd her self, hanging also her childe of a year old about her waste by the feet; but the dogs immediately fell upon the childe, only he was baptized by a religious person before he died.

When the *Spaniards* departed out of the Kingdome invited the son of a certain Noble man, Governor either of a City or great Province, that he would go along with him, who answering that he was unwilling to leave his native Countrey, they threatned to cut off his ears unlesse he would go along with him; notwithstanding all which, he persevered in his resolution; whereupon they cut off his nose and the upper part of his lip, with as little remorse as if they had been paring their nailes.

This *Furcifer* carried himself obscenely toward a deserving religious person, boasting to him, that he had got as many *Indians* as he could with childe, that they might yeeld the more profit in the sale of them



them. In this Kingdome, or else in some province of new *Spain*, it hapned that a *Spaniard* being a hunting, his dogs seemed to him to be a hungry, whereupon he took a little Infant out of the mothers armes, and cutting off the thighs and armes of the Childe, cast it to his dogs, and when they had devoured those, he cast the whole body to them. Thus we see how they were delivered over to a reprobate sense; and what a value they put upon these creatures formed after the Image of God. But now worse things follow.

Many cruelties, and indeed innumerable which were never before heard of, I doe omit, only I shall adde this one. These ambitious, blinde and execrable tyrants going out of this Region to seek more riches, there went with them four Monks of the Order of *St. Francis* together with Father *James*, to keep the Countrey in peace, and to bring the remainder of those that were left by their preaching to the knowledge of Christ. I do beleieve that these were they that in the year thirty four were solicited by the *Indians* to come into their Countrey, and to preach to them the knowledge of the true God. To which purpose they gathered assemblies and congregations together, that they might know what sort of people these were

were that call'd themselves *Fathers*, and *Fryers*, who differed so much from the rest of the *Spaniards*, that vex'd them with so much affliction and torment. At length they receiv'd them, but on condition that they would come alone and not let any other of the *Spaniards* enter in among them, which those religious persons promis'd, for they had not only a liberty, but a command from the Governor of *New Spain*, that they should so promise them, and that the *Spaniards* should do them no harm or injury. Upon which they began to preach the Gospel among them, and to declare to them the holy intention of the King of *Spain*, of which things they had not yet received any knowledge, nor that they had any other King then him who oppressed them with so much tyranny. The religious persons had not been there above forty daies, when they began to bring in all their Idols, and to commit them to the fire; and afterwards they brought their children, whom they loved as dearly as the apples of their eyes, to the religious persons to be instructed. And thus being perswaded by these religious persons they did more then ever had been done in the *Indies* before (for what ever the Tyrants that had oppressed them were wont to tell them they only spoke in contempt

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tempt and devotion on the *Indians*) for above twelve or fifteen Kings of large Provinces, together with their subjects by their Councell and consent, all of them acknowledged the King of *Castile* to be their superiour Lord of their own accord, and received him for their Emperour, as he was King of *Spain*. In test mony whereof I have a writing in my own custody signed by those persons.

Thus not without the great joy of those devout persons, an entry was made, for the bringing of those inhabitants that were remaining in these Countreys to the knowledge of Christ; but in the mean while by another way there entred in among them about eighteen *Spanish* Horsemen and twelve footmen, bringing with them great loads of Idols, which they had brought out of other Countreys. The Captain of the foresaid *Spaniards* called to him one of the Noble men of this Countrey, and commanded him to take these Idols and to distribute them among his people, and bring in exchange an *Indian* man or woman for every Idol, otherwise threatening to make war upon him; the foresaid Lord out of fear took those Idols, giving every one of them to his subjects, commanding them to worship them, and also to send back in recompence to the *Spaniards* some of their people to serve

serve them. The *Indians* terrifi'd delivered their children after a certain proportion, those that had two giving one, and those that had three delivering two; and thus they ended this sacrilegious merchandize, and so the *Cacique* gave satisfaction to the *Spaniards*; I dare not call them Christians. One of these sacrilegious Robbers, *John Garcia* by name, being very sick and like to die had under his bed two burthens of these Idols, who when the Indian woman that looked to him was with him, commanded her that she should not deliver those Idols at a small rate, because they were of the best sort, and therefore that she should not sell them, but for an *Indian* man or woman in exchange, and as he was making this kinde of will he expired. And who can now question but that his soul is now tormented in the flames of Hell! Consider by this what was the progresse of Religion; and what examples of Christianity the *Spaniards* did shew, when they came into *America*, how they honour'd God themselves, or how much they car'd that the *Indians* should know the right worship of him; Judge which is the greater crime, that of *Jeroboam* who made *Israel* to sin, causing two golden Calves to be set up, and to be worshipt by the people, or of



the *Spaniards*, who caused the *Indians* to buy their Idols, and made merchandize of them. These are the deeds of the *Spaniards*, who most often, out of a desire of heaping up gold, did sell and do yet sell, did deny and do yet deny Christ their Redeemer.

The *Indians* seeing that the Promises of the religious persons, that the *Spaniards* should not enter into their Countrey, were not performed, and that the *Spaniards* brought Idols out of other places to sell them into their Countrey, whereas the religious persons had made them to burn all theirs, that there might be but one worship of one God, came and spoke to them in this manner. Why have you told us so many untruths, promising so faithfully to us that the *Spaniards* should not come into our Countrey? Why have you burnt our gods, when as they do bring and sell others among us? are the gods of other Countreys better then our own? The Friars, although they had little to say, yet they made a shift to pacifie their mindes, and immediately went to the *Spaniards* declaring to them the evill which they had done, humbly beseeching them to depart. Which the *Spaniards* not only utterly denied, but also, which was

was more wicked and abominable : they perswaded the *Indians* that they were called by the *Friers* : which being believ'd, they took councell to kill the religious persons, who being admonished by certain other *Indians*, avoided that danger and fled. But after their departure, knowing the falshood and treachery of the *Spaniards*, they sent messengers fifty miles after them, craving pardon in the name of the *Indians*, and intreating them to return.

The religious persons, as upright servants of God and zealous for the souls of those poor people, gave credit to the messengers and returned, and were entertained as if they had been Angels sent from heaven, and remained with the *Indians* for five moneths, receiving a thousand courtesies from them. But when the *Spaniards* would not depart from thence, although the Viceroy used all his endeavours to recall them ; he declared them Traytors and guilty of high Treason ; and moreover, when they persevered in their tyranny and oppression, the religious persons seeing, that though revenge came late, that yet they would not go unpunished, and fearing lest that revenge might fall upon their own heads, and besides not being able to



preach the Gospell in quiet, by reason of the incurfions of the *Spaniards*; resolv'd to leave the Kingdome, which now remains destitute of all knowledge, the souls of these poor *Indians* remaining in their past miseries of ignorance and Heathenisme, all the streams of divine knowledge being taken from them, by these cursed *Spaniards*, as when water is taken from the young plants; for at the time when they went away, the *Indians* were very covetous after the knowledge of our Religion.

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*Of*

*Of the Province of Sancta Martha.*

**T**HE Province of *St. Martha* by reason of the Golden Mines & the fertility of the place was a brave Island; wheretofrom the year 1528. to 1542. many tyrants went thither by sea, with their incursions wasting and spoyling all the Island, after a strange manner destroying the inhabitants, and robbing them of all their Gold. And so the whole Countrey was wasted by them, especially all the coast and the places adjoyning, untill the year 1523. And because it was a fruitfull Countrey, there went thither at severall times severall Captains, succeeding one another in cruelty, so that every one striv'd to outvie his predecessor in the inventions of exquisite torments to afflict the poor people. And thus also in this place they confirm'd our foresaid Axiome. In the year 1529. there went thither a very great tyrant accompanied with many Troops, with an intention to exceed all the rest of his predecessors in cruelty, who took away abundance of treasure from the people in the space of seven years; in which exile he dying without repentance, into his place

F +

other



other tyrants succeeded, where with their bloody hands and impious points of their swords they destroy'd all the rest that their predecessors had spared. And such a desolation they brought upon many provinces by their accustomed waies of cruelty, and inflicted so many torments upon the Princes and people to force them to declare where their treasure lay, that from the year 1529. to this day they depopulated above four hundred mile of land, the number of people in these parts slain being not inferior to those who had been slain in other places.

If I had decreed to reckon up the impieties, slaughters, cruelties, violences, rapines, murders, and iniquities, and other crimes committed by the *Spaniards* against God, the King, and these innocent Nations, I should make two large a volume: yet I shall do my endeavour, if God grant me life. For the present I will rehearse a part of those things which the Bishops of these Provinces wrote to the King our Sovereign Lord. These were letters dated the 25. of May, in the year, 1541. In which these words are written. "I tell your sacred Majesty, that there is no remedy to ease this afflicted Nation, but to deliver it out of the power of these step-fathers, and to give it into the power of a loving husband,

“band, which may use it with more gen-  
“tlenesse as befits it, and that as soon as  
“may be; for if there be any delay, it must  
“of necessity perish. And a little after he  
proceeds thus. “By which it shall be ap-  
“parent to your Majesty, how deservedly  
“the Governors of these Provinces ought  
“to be deprived of their dignity, that the  
“Provinces may be eased; which if it be not  
“suddenly done, these provinces will ne-  
“ver be eased. This also your Majesty  
“may further take notice of, that they are  
“not men that live here but Devils, that  
“there are no servants of God or the King  
“to be found, but traytors both to the  
“Law and King. Now certainly there is  
nothing more destructive to the peace of  
the Nation, and that hinders more the con-  
version of those that live there in peace,  
then the cruel and hard usage which the  
*Spaniards* afflict those innocent people with-  
all, which bred in them such a loathing  
of the *Spanish* name, that nothing is more  
odious and detestable. For the *Indians* call  
them *Yaes*, which in their language signifies  
Devils. And truly not without reason,  
for the actions of these people have been  
more like the actions of Devils, whereby  
it happens that the *Indians* seeing such  
crimes committed by the *Spaniards* both of  
high and inferiour conditions, so void of  
pity



piety and compassion, cannot chuse but think amisse both of God, the King, and Law of the Christians; and to labour to persuade them to the contrary, is a vain and fruitlesse labour, and whereby a greater advantage is given them to laugh at Christ and his Law. And as for the *Indians* that take armes to defend themselves they think it better to die once, then to fall into the hands of their enemies, and to be afflicted with many deaths. These things, most invincible *Cesar*, I have learnt by experience. He addes further, Your Majesty hath in these Countreys more friends and servants then you are aware of; for there is no souldier of all those that serve in these parts, who does not publickly and openly proteste, whether he rob, steal, kill or burn the subjects of your Majesty, for the obtaining of gold, but that he does it to do your Majesty service. Wherefore most invincible *Cesar* it would be requisite, that you should signifie by the severe correction of some, how displeased you were with such services, whereby they shew themselves so disobedient and refractory to God himself. Which words are taken from the writings of the said Bishop of *St. Martha*, out of which it is manifest, what strange things have been committed, and are daily committed by them. They  
call

call the *Indians* Warlike, that continually flie to the Mountains to avoid the cruelty of the *Spaniards*, and they call those the *Indians* and Inhabitants of the Countrey, whom they have subjected to the hard-ship of a perpetual slavery by the terror of their massacres : by which they have been depopulated and wasted, as appears out of the letters of the foresaid Bishop, who recites but a very few of those things that were committed. The *Indians* of these Regions us'd to break forth into these expressions, when they are forc'd naked through the craggie passages of the mountains, if at any time they chanced to faint with weariness (for then they are constantly beaten with canes, sometimes their teeth knockt out with the hilts of their swords, to make them rise and proceed on in their journeys without any rest) then were they wont I say to break forth into these expressions, Oh how envious art thou! I faint, kill me, and put an end to my daies : this they sigh forth, scarcely able to draw out their words, the certain signs of an inward anguish and deep distresse; but who can comprehend in words the hundredth part of these calamities and afflictions wherewith the *Spaniards* do torment the poor *Indians*; God of his mercy bring them to the knowledge of those who are able to remedy and prevent them for the future.

Of



*Of the Province of Carthagena.*

**T**His Province is distant from the Island of *St. Martha* toward the West 50. miles, and is situated upon the confines of the Kingdome of *Cerusia*, being stretched upon the sea coast to the Bay of *Uraba* a hundred miles in length, Southward it is also stretched to a very great length. These Provinces from the year 1498. to this present year were handled after a most cruel manner, and depopulated with several kindes of slaughters, as it happened in the Islands of *St. Martha*: but that I may come to a quick conclusion I shall cease to speak of every particular, that I may make hast to the rehearsal of those detestable crimes which they committed in other Countreys.

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*Of*

*Of the shore of Pearls, of Paria, and of the  
Island of the Trinity.*

**F**ROM the shore of *Paria*, to the Bay of *Venecuela*, which takes up above two hundred miles in length, the *Spaniards* committed most wonderful depopulations; for they gave themselves wholly to their wonted Robberies, enslaving also infinite numbers of men, on purpose to sell them for money, against all the faith and pledges which they had given them for their security (for those were things which they never observed) though they were entertained by these innocent creatures with all civility, and fostered in their houses like their parents, or children, serving them in all things to the utmost of their power, and making them masters of all that was in their possession. It can hardly be said or expressed, with how many injuries and unjust actions they used to afflict the poor *Indians* in these Countreys from 1510. untill this present year. Two or three of their most hainous crimes I will rehearse, whereby the reader may judge of the wickedness of those which remain untold.

Into the Island of the *Trinity* being larger  
and



and more fertile then *Sicily*, and stored with Inhabitants, according to their quality, more ingenuous & vertuous then any other Nation of the *Indians*, a certain Robber went in the year 1510. accompanied with fifty or sixty other fellow theeves, who presently proclaim'd an edict that all the *Indians* should come into the Island to live with him. The *Indians* received them as their natural Countreymen, both Princes and subjects yeelding obedience to them with much chearfulnesse, bringing provision to them every day as much as would have sufficed to have served a far greater number; for this is the custome of the Inhabitants of this new world, to afford all necessaries to the *Spaniards* in great abundance. A little while after the *Spaniards* built a great house for the *Indians* to dwell in, for they would not that all of them should have more then one house, where they might all dwell together, that they might with more convenience execute that which they had in their resolutions; which they did accordingly: for when they had thatched it over, and raised it to the height of two men, they shut up abundance of them in the said house upon pretence to hasten the work; but in truth, that those within might not be seen by those without; then a part of them compass'd the house

house with their weapons that none might enter in or go forth; after that others of them went in, and unsheathing their swords, they threatned death to the naked *Indians* if they stir'd, and then bound them. And if any of them went about to flye, they were in the place immediately cut in pieces; some few that escaped, part wounded, and part whole, joyning themselves with those who stood without, being about two hundred in number, with bowes and arrowes retreated to another house, who being all at one end stoutly defending the entry of the house, the *Spaniards* set fire to the other end, and so they all there perished by fire. Hence they departed with their prisoners, all they could lay hold on, being about a hundred and eighty, to the Island of *St. John* where the sold half, and from thence also to the Island of *Hispaniola*, where they sold the rest. Now when I taxed the Captain for his wickednesse, after he came to the Island of *St. John*? He gave me this answer, Pray sir be patient, for I was commanded by those that sent me, that those that I could not take by fair means, I should seize by force: yet the said Captain had related to me for certain, that in the Island of the *Trinity* he found them both fathers and mothers to him, which he spoke to his greater confusion



fusion and the aggravation of his crime. Infinite of other things they did, taking captive these poor people against all faith given. Let these actions be well considered, and whether the *Indians* so taken may be justly enslaved or no. Once the Fryers of the Order of *St. Dominick* consulted about sending some of their Order to this Island, to spread the light of the Gospel among the *Indians*, for the salvation of their souls; Whereupon they sent a Licentiate, famous for his sanctity with a lay man, to accompany him, to visit the Countrey, converse with the Inhabitants, and to seek out fit places for the the building of Monasteries. The religious persons being arriv'd were received as Angels from heaven, ear being giv'n to their words with all attention, alacrity and affection, that they were able at that time, for they were ignorant of our language; it happened afterwards when the religious persons were gone, that there came a band of Souldiers, who according to their wonted customes of fraud and impiety, carried away captive the Prince of the Province, who (either because that name was given him by the Religious persons, or by the other *Spaniards*) was call'd *Alfonso*; for they delight to be called by the names of the Christians, and therefore before they are informed of any thing

thing else they desire to be baptized. By these souldiers was *Alfonfus* craftily seduced a shipboard under pretence that they would give him a Banquet; with their Prince there went seventeen other persons, for they had a confidence that the Fryers would keep the *Spaniards* from doing them any injury, for otherwise the said King would not have trusted them so far; but they were no sooner on shipboard, but the *Spaniards* hoysed up their sailes for *Hispaniola*, where they sold all the *Indtans* for slaves; Now all the Region being troubled for the losse of their King and Queen, flockt to the Religious persons, and had like to have slain them; who perceiving the injustice of the *Spaniards* were very much troubled; and I do beleve, that they had rather have lost their lives, then that the *Indians* should have suffered such an injury to the hinderance of their salvation; but the *Indians* were satisfied with the promises of the religious persons, who told them, that as soon as any ships came to the Island, they would take the first opportunity to go to *Hispaniola* and endeavour to get their King and Queen set at liberty. Providence sent a ship thither to confirm the condemnation of those that govern'd, by which these religious persons sent to the religious persons of *Hispaniola*, but got no redress, for the *Spaniards* there



were receivers of the prey. When the religious persons, who had promised to the *Indians* that their King should return within four moneths, saw that he did not come in eight moneths, they prepared themselves for death, and to give up their lives to Christ to whom they had offer'd them before their departure out of *Hispaniola*; and so the innocent *Indians* reveng'd themselves upon the innocent Friars. For the *Indians*, believed that the religious persons were guilty of the said treachery, partly because that their promises concerning the return of their King in four moneths had prov'd so vain, partly because the *Indians* make no distinction between the religious persons and the theeving *Spaniards*. It hapned also that at another time, through the great tyranny and oppression of the evil Christians, that the *Indians* slew two religious persons of the order of St. *Dominic*, of which I was a very real witnesse, as being one of those who escaped the same fate by a great miracle, which I had resolved not to have mentioned, lest the horror of the fact should deter others. Wherefore to avoid prolixity, I shall say no more concerning these things, leaving them to be revealed at the day of judgement, when God shall pour his vengeance down upon these robbers and destroyers of mankind. In these Provinces in  
the

the Bay of *Coderat*, there was a City, the Lord of which was called *Higueroto*, a name common either to the persons, or to the officers of the place. He was a person so milde and gentle, and all his subjects endued with such vertue, using the *Spaniards* that arriv'd there with that civility, that they thought nothing too much for them, bestowing all things needfull either for sustenance or delight that their Countrey afforded. This Lord had saved many from death, who had escaped out of other Provinces, from the murthers and slaughters of the *Spaniards*, being a kind of a sanctuary for the sick and half famished persons that came into his Countrey, and when they were recovered sent them back again to the Island of pearls where the *Spaniards* liv'd, though he had an opportunity to have slain them, there being none to regard or misse them; in brief, the *Spaniards* had all the houses of the inhabitants in common, and all the subjects of *Higueroto* they called their own subjects; but a perfidious *Spaniard* took counsel how he might destroy this Region which seem'd it self so safe and secure; presently therefore he sayl'd thither, and invited a great number of men to come a shipboard, who giving credit to the *Spaniards*, came willingly to them; but they were no sooner entred the ship, but the *Spaniards* hoysed sayl for the Island



of *St. John* where they sold them all. At the same time I arriv'd at this Island, where I saw this tyrant, and was told the relation of what he had done. He wholly destroyed the City it self, which the other *Spaniards* who were wont to harrace all the sea coast, were notwithstanding much troubled at, abominating actions so hainous committed against them who had been so courteous and liberal to them, and where they had been entertain'd as in their own houses.

I will not recite the infinite wickednesses which have been committed by them, and are daily committed among them.

These *Spaniards* departed from the sea coast to the Islands of *Hispaniola* and *St. John*, carrying with them above two millions of men to the said Islands, which they afterwards destroyed through hard labour and continual bad usage; those that before liv'd in this Island, being not reckned into their number, who were an infinite and unspeakable number, and it is a most sad thing to consider, and that which would move the most cruel hearts, to see all this fertile shore lie desert and depopulated. This is also a known thing, that they never do transport *Indians* from these places, but in their voyage they do pay the third part of them as a tribute to the waves, besides

sides those that are murdered in their own houses. The cause of all these things are their own wicked purposes; that is to say, by the sale of the Indians to heap up treasure, yet furnishing the ships not with half provisions for the sustenance of those that they transport, because they would not be at too much charges; and sometimes there are hardly provisions enough to suffice the *Spaniards* themselves, so that the *Indians* ready to die for hunger and thirst, are immediately thrown into the sea. And it was related to me for certain, that a ship going from *Hispaniola* to the Island of *Lucayos*, sayl'd thither without any compasse, only by the Carkasses that floated up and down the sea. Afterwards when they are landed, where they are carried to be sold, there is no man that would not be mov'd with compassion, to see both old and young, men and women, naked and hungry, drop and faint as they goe along. Afterwards they divide them like sheep, separating sons from fathers, wives from their husbands; and then making up a company of ten or twenty, those that set out the ships, and fitted them with necessaries, presently cast lots for their shares. And when the lot fell upon a company that had an old or a sick man, he to whom the lot fell, was wont to break forth into these expressions,

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pressions, *Cursed be this old fellow, why do you give him me? to bury him? why do you give me this sick man? to be his keeper?* And thus let us consider, in what estimation the *Indians* are among the *Spaniards*, and how the precept of Charity on which the Law and the Prophets depends is observed among them.

There is nothing more detestable or more cruel, then the tyranny which the *Spaniards* use toward the *Indians* for the getting of pearl. Surely the infernall torments cannot much exceed the anguish that they indure, by reason of that way of cruelty; for they put them under water some four or five ells deep, where they are forced without any liberty of respiration, to gather up the shels wherein the Pearls are; sometimes they come up again with nets full of shels to take breath, but if they stay any while to rest themselves, immediately comes a hangman row'd in a little boat, who as soon as he hath well beaten them, drags them again to their labour. Their food is nothing but fish, and the very same that contains the Pearl, with a small portion of that bread which that Countrey affords; in the first whereof there is little nourishment; and as for the latter, it is made with great difficulty, besides that they have not enough of that neither for sustenance; they lye upon the ground in fetters,

ters, lest they should run away ; and many times they are drown'd in this labour, and are never seen again till they swim upon the top of the waves : oftentimes they also are devoured by certain sea monsters, that are frequent in those seas. Consider whether this hard usage of the poor creatures be consistent with the precepts which God commands concerning charity to our neighbour, by those that cast them so undeservedly into the dangers of a cruel death, causing them to perish without any remorse or pity, or allowing them the benefit of the Sacraments, or the knowledge of Religion ; it being impossible for them to live any time under the water ; and this death is so much the more painful, by reason that by the coarctation of the brest, while the lungs strive to do their office, the vitall parts are so afflicted that they dye vomiting the bloud out of their mouths. Their hair also, which is by nature black, is hereby chang'd and made of the same colour with that of the sea Wolves ; their bodies are also so besprinkled with the froth of the sea, that they appear rather like monsters then men. By this intolerable labour, or rather diabolical exercise, they have consumed all the *Lucayans*, for their particular gain ; out of every *Indians* labour gaining above fifty or a hundred  
Crowns.



Crowns. They sold them also against all justice; only because *Lucayans* were most skillfull swimmers. There perished also many of the Inhabitants of other Provinces in this place.

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*Of the River of Yuya Pari.*

**T**Hrough this Province runs the River of *Yuya Pari* which rises in other Countreys about two hundred miles distant. Into this River entred a perfidious Tyrant, wasting many miles of Land, committing many slaughters, consuming many by fire, and putting an infinite number of these poor *Indians* to the sword, that liv'd peaceably in their own houses without any suspicion of making disturbance. At length he dy'd an evill death, and all his forces came to ruine, though he were succeeded by many others, not inferiour to him in impiety, who daily destroy the souls of the poor *Indians*, for whom the bloud of Christ was spilt.

*Of*



*Of the Kingdome of Venecuela.*

**I**N the yeare 1526. our Soveraigne Lord the King through the false perswasions of some evil Counsellours made over to certaine Dutch Merchants the Kingdome of *Venezuela*, being more large and long then *Spain*, giving to the Governour a full and plenary jurisdiction over the said People upon certain conditions. They entered this Region with about 30. men, where they found the people affable and courteous as they were in other Countries of *India* before they were killed up by the *Spaniards*. They by many degrees crueller then the rest of whom we have spoken shewed themselves more fierce and greedy then Tygers, Wolves or Lyons; for having a jurisdiction over the Land, and therefore possessing it more freely, they bestirred themselves with greater fury and covetousnesse in the heaping up of Gold and Silver, then any of their Predecessors had done before them; laying aside all feare of God, or of the King, and forgetting all humanity.

These incarnate devils laid waste and  
H spoild



spoiled above 400. miles of most fertile land, containing very great Provinces, fruitful Vallies forty miles in length ; and an infinite number of Villages abounding with Gold and Silver. So many, and so many several regions they so utterly depopulated, that they hardly left a Messenger of these sad tydings, but those which hiding themselves in the Caverns and Bowels of the Earth escaped the thirst of their enraged swords. With new and unusual sorts of torments they destroyed above four or five millions of people ; Neither do they yet put an end to their abominable crimes and enormities : Three or four of their mad actions I will rehearse, whereby the reader may judge of the rest.

The chiefe Lord of the Province they took captive, putting him to several torments to squeeze his Gold from him ; but he escaping fled to the Mountaines, and thereupon his Subjects that lay hid among the Woods and Bushes began to raise a tumult ; The *Spainards* followed destroying abundance of the people ; and as for those who were taken alive, they were publicly sold for slaves. In many Provinces, and indeed in most Provinces where they came before the captivity of the chief Lord, they were still welcom'd by the *Indians* with Songs and Dances and great Presents of Gold ; though the thanks which they  
gave

gave them was alwayes with the points of their swords, still recompensing them with Massacres. One day when they came forth to meet the *Spaniards*, the *German* Tyrant and Captaine caus'd an infinite number of them to be shut up in a house made up with straw, where he commanded that they should be all cut in pieces. Now by reason that there were beames in the house whither the *Indians* got up to avoid the fury of the *German* swords; therefore (O cruel beasts) the Governour sent certaine men to set fire upon the house, and so burnt them alive: So that now the whole Region lay waste and desolate, the inhabitants being all fled to the Mountaines for safety.

They came afterwards to another large Province neere to that of *St. Martha*, where they found the *Indians* in their houses and Cities very peaceably employed about their occasions, where they liv'd a good while at the charges of the inhabitants, the *Indians* serving them like men in whose power their lives and safeties were, induring beyond imagination their continual importunities and daily oppressions, which were almost intolerable. This being added, which I said before, that one *Spainard* consumes in one day as much as would suffice to serve an *Indian* family consisting commonly of ten persons for a whole month. At that time the *Indians* presented them with several



great summes of Gold, doing many other kindneses for them. At length when they were about to go away, as a recompence for all their courteous entertainment, they resolv'd to leave them after this manner. The *German* Tyrant gave command that all the *Indians* with their wives and children if possible, should be gathered together and shut up in one large place; which done, they were also commanded to signifie to them, that whoever desired to be at liberty, must redeeme themselves with their wives and children at a certain Ransome, impos'd upon them at the discretion of the Governour; & to hasten them the more and bring them to a greater necessity, he commanded that no sustenance should be given them, till they had pay'd the sum required. Hereupon many sent home for the price of their Redemption, that they might be at liberty to seek for Victuals: But they had not been long at home ere they were brought back again by the Robbers, and shut up in the same place, that being oppressed with hunger and thirst they might be forc'd to redeem themselves once more; and thus were many of them three or four times faine to ransom themselves. And in this manner a Country abounding with Gold and people was totally destroy'd; in which there was a Valley forty miles long, where they burnt a Village that contained above a thousand

thousand houses. This Governour went further, having a great desire to see the lower parts of *Perue*; for which journey he provided an infinite number of *Indians*, lading them with chaines and heavy burthens; and if any of them fainted by the way, because they would not stand to loosen the chaines, they cut off their hands and heads, casting the head one way, and the body another, and their burdens were divided and impos'd upon others. And now should I reckon the Provinces which he laid desert, the Cities which he burnt, for all their houses are of straw, besides the particular slaughters which they made, though I am confident of the truth thereof, yet should I scarcely be beleev'd, by reason that so much cruelty could not be suppos'd in man.

This course took other Tyrants that departed from *Venequela* and the Province of *St. Martha*, with a resolution to make a further discovery of the Divine Gold of *Perue*: But they found that glorious Country so desert, so depopulated, so wasted and destroyed, that they themselves though a crew of blood thirsty Tyrants, were amaz'd and wondred to behold such ruines and depopulations.

These and many other things were prov'd before the fiscal of the *Indian* Council, and the several proofes are kept by the said Council; though tis most certain that they



never put to death any of those cursed Tyrants, as if all the devastations and murders by them committed had not been at all to be regarded. For hitherto the Ministers of Justice in *India* through their extraordinary and damned blindness, have never been very solicitous to inquire after the crimes and slaughters which those Tyrants have committed, or daily do commit. Onely they tell you slightly, that because such and such a one did ill and handled the *Indians* so cruelly, that therefore the Treasury of the King was much diminished; and this is all they do toward the suppression of so many hainous actions. Neither are those, which are prov'd, verif'd to any purpose, neither is there that credit given to them as indeed there should be; for if they would but do their duty both to God and the King, they would soon finde the King to have been cheated by the *German* Tyrants of above three millions of Gold; for the Region of *Venezuela* being about 400. miles in length, for the happinesse of the soile and the abundance of Gold is not inferiour to any of the rest: and thus in the space of seventeen years wherein these enemies of God and the King, have done nothing else but destroy'd and wasted these Countries, they have, as I said before, defrauded the King not of lesse then three millions of Gold. Neither is it to be hop'd that these  
losses

losses can be repaired as long as the World stands, unlesse God by some miracle should raise from the dead so many people as have been slaine; besides the blasphemies and curses wherewith they have been bold to provoke even God himselfe. But what recompence can be made for the destroying of so many soules, which through the cruelty and tyranny of so many blood-sucking Tyrants are now tormented in hell? This also may be added by way of conclusion to the rest of their Crimes, that from the time that they first entered this Region, which is now seventeen years agoe, they never ceas'd to send whole Ships laden with *Indian* Captives to the Islands of *St. Martha*, *Hispaniola*, *Jamaica*, and *St. John*, having sold at the least a million of men; neither do they yet forebeare in this yeare 1542. that abominable practice; the Royal Council of the King taking no notice thereof: and that, which they cannot choose but see, they not onely dissemble, but suffer and uphold them that do it. And as for the rest of their Crimes and infinite devastations, which they spread all along this part of the *Continent*, for a matter of 400. miles in length, together with *Venecuela* which is under their jurisdiction, they shut their eyes, when they might have remedi'd them. The reason why they did captivate the *Indians* was onely this; out of a perverse, obstinate



and blinde desire of heaping up Gold and riches, which is common to all that have gone into *America*. For these quiet lambes, they drew them by violence out of their houses, carrying them, together with their wives and children into Captivity, afflicting them in those horrid manners as abovesaid, and burning them with the marke of Slaves.



*Of the Provinces of the Country of  
Florida.*

**I**Nto these Countries there went two several Tyrants at several times, from the year 1510. or eleven, that they might perpetrate the same abominable actions as the rest had done; that by the blood and destruction of the people, they might obtaine Offices and dignities which they were no way worthy of. But at length they were taken away by an evil death, the houses also which they had built them (this I witnesse of all the three) at the cost of humane blood perish'd with them, the memory of them vanishing from the face of the Earth, as if they had never been. They left these Countries very much troubled and confused, having incurr'd no small infamy by reason of the  
Crimes

Crimes which they committed, though they were not many : for God cut them off at the beginning, leaving the revenge of those evils, which I know, and have seen done in the *Indies*, to be poured forth upon this place. Of the fourth Tyrant that came well instructed lately in the yeare 1538. we have had no news these three yeares. This we are sure of, that at the beginning he carried himselfe very cruelly ; and if he be alive, most assuredly he hath destroy'd an infinite number of people ; for he among all those who have done most mischeife in ruining both Provinces and Kingdoms, is famous for his Savage fury ; wherefore I am apt to believe that God hath put the same end to his life, as to the others.

Three or four years after these things happened which I have related, the other Tyrant that went along with him who there ended his dayes, departed out of that Country ; whose cruelties and rapines while the chiefe Captaine liv'd, and after his death were so many, as we since understood, that what we said before, may still stand for an Axiom, that the further they went, the more exorbitant was their fury and iniquity. But because it is so irksome to me to rehearse these Execrable and bloody acts not of men but of beasts, I will no longer dwell upon them, but go to those things which followed after.

They



They found a numerous people, wise and well moralliz'd, over whom they exercis'd their wonted tyrannies, seeking to strike an awe and dread into them, with the anguish and the burdens wherewith they oppressed them. And if they fainted by the way, they would not take the pains to open the fetters, but came to the fainting person, and cut off his head or his hands, and so left them. Once entering into a certaine Village, they were with great joy and exultation received by the *Spaniards*, who gave them provision till they were satisfied, allowing them also six hundred *Indians* to carry their burdens, and to look to their horses. But the *Spaniards* being departed, a certain Captain, of Kin to the chiefe Tyrant, returned to spoile them that mistrusted nothing; who there slew the King of the Province with his Lance, and committed many other cruelties. In another Village, whose Inhabitants seem'd to be more vigilant, by reason of the horrid iniquities which, as they heard, the *Spaniards* were wont to commit, they put all to the sword, young and old, little and great, Lord and subject, sparing none that came in their way.

The chief Tyrant, with a nose and lips down to his beard, having call'd together a great number of *Indians*, reported to  
have

have been about two hundred, caused them all to have their members lopt off, leaving them in this sad and painful condition, the blood streaming forth, to be witness of the mercy of these persons baptiz'd in the Catholike Faith.

Now let us judge of the love which such kinde of men beare toward Christianity, or after what manner they beleieve in God, whom they boast to be good and just, and whose Law is without blemish. Most pernicious have been the evils committed by these wicked men, the sons of perdition. At length this wretched Captaine dyed without any repentance, neither can we doubt but that he now lies tetter'd in the shades of Hell, unlesse God of his infinite mercy and goodnesse, not according to his deserts, have taken compassion on him.



*Of the River of Plate, or the  
Silver River.*

**A**Bout the yeares one thousand five hundred and two or three, some four or five Captaines undertook a journey to the *River of Plate*, which containes many Provinces and Countries, which flourish  
with



with people very rational, and of handsome dispositions. In general we can say that they did there commit many horrid mischiefes and execrable murders. But being at a very great distance from those *Indians*, of whom we have talked more at large, we can relate nothing singular or particular; onely we doe not question, but they do employ themselves in the same works of darknesse as hath been hitherto practised in divers other places; for they are *Spaniards* still, and many of them the very same who were present at the other Massacres, and having the same intention to become rich and potent, which they cannot obtaine but by the same courses as they formerly took, following the bloody footsteps of those who have already destroyed and slain so many *Indians*.

After I had written what I have above mentioned, it hath been related to me for certaine, that they have depopulated and laid waste many Provinces and Kingdoms in those Regions, rendring themselves so much the more exquisite and devilish in their oppressions, slaughters, and massacres of those people, by how much they are at a farther and more convenient distance from *Spaine*; and laying aside all thoughts of Justice, which indeed was never practis'd in those Regions of *America*, as doth sufficiently appeare by  
what

what we have above writtrn. Among all the Enormities which shall follow after, this one was read in the Councel. A certain Gouvernour had given in charge to his souldiers, that into whatever Village they came that should deny them provision, that they should there put all the Inhabitants to the sword. Upon which Warrant the souldiers went, and because the *Indians* would not submit to them as to enemies, fearing rather to come into their sight, then that their Liberality or Store would be defective, they immediatly put to the sword above 5000. of them. A certain number of men also living in peace, offer'd their service to them; they afterwards were by chance summon'd by the Governour, and because they came not so suddenly as his fury expected, he thereupon commanded that they should be delivered to those *Indians* that were their enemies. With tears and outcries they beseeched him that he would rather permit them to die by their hands, then deliver them up to the mercy of their foes; and when they would not come out of the houses where they were, they were all torne lim-meale, crying out, and saying, *We come in peace to serve you, and you now kill us, may our blood sprinkled upon these walls be a testimony of our unjust death, and of your cruelty.* Certainly this was a deed not only



only to be bemoaned, but also to be bewaild and pity'd.



*Of the great Kingdomes, and large  
Provinces of Peru.*

**I**N the yeare 1531. a great *Helluo* and devourer of men went into the Kingdoms of Peru, upon the same pretences, and with the same intention as the rest; and being one of those who had been present at the murders and slaughters committed in other places, in the year 1510. therefore he proceeded with a greater hardnesse of heart in his outrages and robberies; and being a man of no faith or truth, he laid waste Cities and Villages, slaying all the Inhabitants; and was the cause of all those mischiefs that followed afterward in those Kingdomes; to undertake the Narration of which, and to represent them all to the Reader, is a thing impossible, until they shall perfectly and clearly appear at the day of judgement before all men. And for my selfe, I doe confesse, should I goe about to describe the deformity, the quality and circumstances of their actions, it would be a task too difficult for me.

At

At his first enterance he wasted certain Villages, and plundred the Country of a great quantity of Gold: And one time coming into an Island adjoyning to these Regions, which was known by the name of *Pagna*, being a fertile Island and full of people: he was receiv'd by the Prince and the inhabitants thereof as if he had been an Angel sent from heaven. But after that six months were past, in which time the *Spaniards* had consum'd all their provision, they then brought forth the corn which they had reserv'd against times of barrenesse for themselves their wives and children, in places under the ground, offering it to them with tears in their eyes, desiring them to do what pleas'd them with it. But they ill rewarded them in the end, killing a very great number of them with their swords and lances, and those whom they took alive they carri'd away into Captivity, emptying and destroying the Country, with many other cruelties.

From thence they went to the Island of *Tumbala*, which is situated in the *Continent*, where he kill'd all that fell into his power; and because the people being astonish'd at their barbarism fled away from them, they accus'd them of Rebellion against the King of *Spain*. This Tyrant us'd also this kind of subtilty toward the *Indians*. He commanded those whom he took, and others which brought



brought him presents, still to bring him more, till he saw that they were quite destitute; telling them that he receiv'd them now as Vassals and Subjects of the king of *Spain*; flattering them also and telling them that he would neither take them, nor do them any other injury. As though it had been a thing lawful for him to rob & spoile them, and to terrifie them with such kinde of strange news before he had receiv'd them into the protection of the King of *Spain*; or as if after he had so receiv'd them to protection, he had never done any injury or laid any oppression upon them. After this the King and Supream Emperour of all these Regions, *Acaliba* by name, brought against the *Spaniards* a great power of pitiful naked Creatures, and arm'd with most ridiculous weapons, not knowing the sharpnesse of the *Spanish* Swords and Lances, nor the strength of their Horses; to the place where they lay approach'd the *Spaniards*, who certainly would rob the devils of Gold if they had it; This King resolv'd to call the *Spaniards* to an account, for the slaughters of his people, the destruction of his Country, & the robberies which they committed upon his Treasures. But the *Spaniards* met him, kill'd an infinite number of his people, and seiz'd upon his person, which was carried in a kind of Litter. Now they come to *Capitulations* about his redemption; He promi-  
ses

les ten millions of Crowns, and numbers down fifteen ; they promis'd to release him, but never stood to their words, falsifying all the protestations which they made to the King ; telling him how that his Subjects were gathered together again by his command. To whom the King made answer, that there could not be a leaf of a tree moved without his will and authority ; but if they were now assembled any where together, it was not by his power ; who was now their captive, for they might take away his life if they pleas'd. Notwithstanding all which they consulted whether they should burn him alive or no, which sentence they afterwards passed ; but by the intreaty of some, that sentence was mitigated and he was commanded to be strangled. The King understanding that he was to dye, spake to them in these words ; Why do you kill me ? Did you not promise to set me at liberty, so I would give you Gold ? I gave it you, and more then you requir'd ; yet if it be your will that I must dye, send to your King of *Spain* : But ere he could utter more, the flames prevented him. Consider here the equity of this war, the Captivity of this Prince, the sentence of his condemnation, and the execution of that sentence, the conscience of the *Spaniards*, which nothing deterr'd them from consuming and taking away by violence the great Treasures



fures of this great King and of his Nobles, how they all concur to aggravate their devillish iniquity. Concerning the foule and enormous cruelties wherewith they wholly extirpated the people of these Regions, I will here relate a few, seen by a Friar of the Order of St. Francis, and confirm'd and committed to writing under his own hand and seale, and dispers'd not onely in these Provinces, but in the Kingdome of *Castile*. A copy of which I can produce signed with his own hand, wherein these things following are contain'd.

I Brother *Mark* of *Cilicia*, of the Order of St. Francis, cheif Governour of all the Brotherhood of that Order, in the Provinces of *Peru*, being one of the first religious persons that went into those parts, speak this for a certain truth, testifying those things which I have seen, and which properly concern the inhabitants of these Countries. First I am an eye-witnesse, and do affirme upon my knowledge that the inhabitants of *Perue* were a Nation very courteous, affable, and loving to the *Spaniards*; and I have seen Presents of Gold, Silver, and precious Stones, given by those people to the *Spaniards* in great abundance, besides many other offices of service which they daily did for them. Neither did the *Indians* ever move war till they were forc'd to it by the contumelies and injuries of the *Spaniards*:

But

But on the contrary, the *Spaniards* being received by them with all the shews of respect and freindship, were continually furnish't both with men and women for their service.

I am also a witnesse, that upon no occasion given them by the *Indians* the *Spaniards* did enter their Country, and burnt to death their great Emperour call'd *Ataliba*, after they had receiv'd from him as a ransom from his captivity above two millions of Gold; His whole Kingdome having submitted themselves to him without any resistance: With the same cruelty was *Cochilimacha* his Captain General put to death, who came with other Noble men of the Country to the *Spaniards* in peace. The same Fate also follow'd another potent Lord of the Province of *Quitonia*, whom they also burnt without any occasion given, or injury done them: As unjustly did they burne also *Schapera*, Prince of the *Canaries*: They also burnt the feet of *Aloides* the most potent Lord in all the Provinces of *Quitonia*, afflicting him with many other torments to make him confesse where the Gold of *Ataliba* lay, though as afterwards it appear'd, he knew nothing of it. They also kill'd *Quitonius Cocopaganga*, Governour of all the Provinces of *Quitonia*, who at the importunities of *Sebastian Barnaclacanus* Captain to the Governour



vernour came in peace to the *Spaniards*, because he could not give them the sum which they demanded; thus they put to death divers other of the Noblemen of the Country; and as I understand, it is the intention of the *Spaniards* not to leave one of the Lords and Noblemen of that place alive.

I do also affirme that I have seen the *Spaniards* for no other cause, but to satisfie their own wills, dismember the *Indians* both men and women, cutting off their eares, noses, and hands, and that in so many places and regions, that it would be a tedious thing to relate them. I have also seen the *Spaniards* set their dogs upon the *Indians* to devour them; and such a number of houses and villages burnt by them, that it would be over long to rehearse them: This is also a truth, that they would snatch young Infants out of their mothers bellies, and cast them as far as they could throw them; besides many other cruelties which they committed, which did not a little amaze me, though they are too many to be numbred.

I do also affirme that the *Spaniards* got together as many of the *Indians* as possibly they could croud into three houses, and there, upon no occasion given, burnt them to death. At that time it chanc'd that a certain Presbyter, by name *Ocana* snatch'd an Infant out of the fire, which one of the  
*Spaniards*

*Spaniards* beholding, immediately took the child out of his hands, and threw it into the fire; which *Spaniard*, the same day that he did this vile act, as he returned to his Quarters, fell down dead by the way, whom I perswaded the rest to leave unburied.

I have also seen them send to the Noblemen and chief Rulers of the *Indians* to come to them, engaging to secure them, and to let them return in peace; but when they came, they caused them to be immediately burnt. Two they burnt while I was present, one being the Lord of *Andonia*, the other of *Tumbala*; neither could I by any perswasions prevail with them to take them out of the fire; and this I speak in the presence of God, and according to my own conscience, that I never knew of any commotion or rebellion raised by the *Indians* of *Peru* against them, though it was apparent to all how they did torment and massacre them. Which had they done, considering how the *Spaniards* broke their faith and promises to them, how against all Law and Right they practis'd nothing else but their desolation and destruction, certainly they had done well, chusing rather noble a death, then to endure such tedious miseries.

I doe also affirme out of the mouths of the *Indians* themselves, that greater quantities of Gold lie hid then are yet discovered,



vered, which because of the cruelties and injustice of the *Spaniards*, they are loath to reveale, nor will reveale, till the tyrannical hand of the *Spaniards* shall be taken off them, rather chusing to dye, as others have done. Whereby God is offended, and the Affairs of the King many times impeded: For he hath been defrauded of more then would serve to maintain *Casile*, the recovery of which cannot be performed without much difficulty and large expences.

And thus far I have related the very words of this religious person, confirm'd by the Bishop of *Mexico*, before whom he justified all that is here written.

Here we must consider these things to be such as this Religious person was an eyewitnesse of, having traveld long in those parts for the space of above nine or ten yeares, and had compassed above fifty or a hundred miles of that Country, when there were but few *Spaniards* that liv'd in those parts; though afterwards to the noise of the Gold there flockt thither above five thousand, who scattered themselves through those large Provinces, that contain'd in length above five or 600. miles, which they totally laid waste, committing rather more and greater cruelties then they had done in any other Countries; and to say truth, from that time until this present year, they de-

destroy'd a thousand times more persons then he makes mention of, and with lesse feare, either of God, or of the King, and with lesse pity they massacred the greatest part of mankind of those that inhabited those Regions, killing above four millions of people.

A few dayes after, with darts made of reeds, they shot at the most potent Queen, who was the Wife of *Elinguus*, in whose hands the whole Administration of the Government of these Kingdomes remain'd, which occasioned him to rebel against them, and to this day he holds out against them: At length they took his Queen, and contrary to all right and equity, they put her to death, though it was reported that she was great with child, for no other cause but that they might afflict her husband. But if I should goe to particularize the murders and slaughters committed in that Region, the Reader would finde them so horrid and so numerous, that in both respects they would far exceed what hath been said touching the other parts of *India*.

of





Of the New Kingdome of  
GRANATA.

**I**N the yeare 1539. many of these Tyrants departing from *Venecuela*, *Santa Martha* and *Carthagena*, met together to make a Conquest of *Peru*. And many others comming out of the same Regions, having a desire to make a further Progreſs, they found many pleasant Countries, about ſome 300. miles from *Carthagena*, & divers gallant Provinces, well ſtored with courteous and affable Inhabitants like to other places in *India*, abounding alſo in Gold and Precious Stones, which are called *Emraulds*; which Provinces by a new name they called *New Granata*, becauſe that the Tyrant that firſt came into theſe parts was borne in the Kingdome of *Granata*. And becauſe thoſe that robb'd and ſpoil'd theſe Countries, were cruel men, and perverſe Stewards, famous butchers and ſpillers of humane blood, therefore are their diabolical actions ſo great and ſo many, that they farre ſurpaſſed thoſe which were done before them in other Countries, of which, ſome of the moſt ſelect ones I will rehearſe.

A

A certain Governour, because he that destroy'd those parts would not admit him to share with him in his gettings, made certain Inquisitions and proofes, which he got prov'd by many witnesses, by which are apparent the murders and homicides which the other committed; in the committing whereof he perseveres unto this day; There were read in the Councel, and stand these recorded.

In the said Examinations the witnesses depose, that when all these Kingdomes were peaceful, the *Indians* serv'd the *Spaniards*, getting their living by painful labours in the tillage of the Earth, bringing them what quantity of Gold or Gems they had or could get, having also divided their houses and their habitations among them, of which they are not a little covetous, as being a means for them to obtain their Gold the more easily.

But when all the *Indians* were labouring under their accustomed tyranny, the Chief Captain and Tyrant of the *Spaniards* took the King and Lord of the Country, and kept him a prisoner for the space of six or seven moneths, for no other reason then to squeez from him what Gold and precious Stones he could. The said King, whose name was *Bogata*, through fear promised him that he would give him a golden house, hoping by that meanes to be set at liberty;



liberty; and so he sent his *Indians*, who brought back great sums of Gold and Precious Stones. But because the King gave them not a golden house, therefore they told him that he must be put to death, because he did not stand to his word. Whereupon the Tyrant commanded that he should be brought before him; and thus they presum'd to call to judgement one of the greatest Kings of the Land. Whereupon sentence was given that hee should be tormented, because he had not given the gold'n house. Whereupon they tortur'd him, dropping hot sope upon his belly; then they fetterd his two feet to two posts or stakes, and bound his neck to another; then two men holding his hands, they set fire to his feet, the Tyrant coming now and then to him, and threatening death to him, unlesse that he would tell them where his treasure lay; But that could not be done, for with torments they soon ended his life. Which things, while they were doing, the displeasure of Heaven fell upon the City for their sakes, whereby it was immediately consum'd with fire. The other Captaines of the *Spaniards*, resolving to walk in their Leaders footsteps, because they knew no Art but that of dismembring the poor people, were not less guilty of the same crimes, with divers and most horrible torments afflicting both the Nobles

Nobles and the Commonalty which submitted themselves unto them, though they would faine have bought their peace with great presents both of Gold and Precious Stones. They tormented them onely that they might obtaine from them the greater Sums of Gold and Silver ; and thus all the Noble Blood of that Country was spilt in a most barbarous and shameful manner.

One time it happend that a certain number of the *Indians*, full of innocence and simplicity , came to proffer their service to the Spanish Captain ; But while they thought themselves safe under the protection of their own humility, a Captain at that instant came to the City where they serv'd their Masters, who, after he had sup'd, commanded all the *Indians* , who were sleeping and resting from the hardnesse of their labours, to be all put to the sword: Which slaughter he made with intention to make himselfe the more dreadful to all the Country. Once the Captain commanded all the *Spaniards* that they should bring forth as many of the *Indian* Lords or common people, as they had in their houses, into a publick place, and there kill them; and thus they slew above four or five hundred men. This the witnesses affirme of a certain particular Tyrant, that he exercis'd very great cruelties, by cutting



ting off the hands, noses, and feet both of men and women.

Another time it happend that the chief Captain sent an Officer into the Province of *Bogata*, to enquire who had succeeded the Prince that was so cruelly murdered; who riding many miles into the Country, took the *Indians* captive, cutting off the hands and ears of many of them, onely because they would not tell who was their Kings Successor; others they threw to their dogs to be torn to pieces; and thus they kill'd and destroy'd great numbers of the *Indians* in these parts.

Upon a certain day, about the fourth watch of the night, they fell upon many Princes, Peers, and other men who thought themselves in safety; for the *Spaniards* had made promise to them that they should not receive any injury; upon which promise they came out of their lurking holes in the mountaines, returning without any fear or suspicion to their houses; all these this Tyrant took, and causing them to lay their hands upon the ground, with his own sword cut them off, telling them that he would chastise them for not declaring where their King was.

Another time, because the *Indians* did not bring a chest of Gold to the Captain which he required, he therefore sent forces to make war upon them, in which

war

war so many were slain, so many dismembred, that the number was hardly to be reckond ; besides others that they cast to their dogs, bred up and fed with humane flesh, who were immediately devoured by them.

Another time the Inhabitants of another Province, seeing that they had murderd about four or five of their chief Princes and Rulers, fled in fear to a certain mountain for shelter against their inhumane enemies, where there were got together above foure or five thousand *Indians*, as hath been proved by witnesses : But the Captain, or Governour of the *Spaniards*, sent a notorious Tyrant with a company of Souldiers to reduce, as he said, those rebellious *Indians*, that had fled from their slaughters and cruelties ; and to chastise them for it, as if they had done an unlawful action ; or as if punishment had been due to the *Indians*, and not rather more deserved by themselves, to have bin us'd without all pity, who had shewd themselves so mercileffe to others. The *Spaniards* scale this Mountain by force, for the *Indians* were weak and unarmed, telling them that they desired peace if they would lay down their Armes ; whereupon they all immediately threw away their weapons, which when the chief Tyrant beheld, he sent to certain of the *Spaniards* to possesse them-



themselves of the cheife places of strength in the Mountaine ; and then commanded them to fall upon the *Indians*. Whereupon they fall upon them as Wolves or Lyons fall upon a flock of sheep, till they were wearied with murdering ; but they had no sooner taken breath, but he commanded them again to renew their fury, and caus'd them to precipitate the rest which were remaining from the top of the Rock which was very high and steep. And the witnesses affirm that they have seen a cloud of *Indians* falling down from the Mountain, which were all bruis'd to peices.

And to finish his cruel enterprise, he caus'd the *Indians* that had hid themselves among the thickets to be searched out and put to the sword, and then thrown down from the tops of the high mountaines. And not satiated with these cruelties, that their horrible abominations might be the more notorious, he gave command that all the *Indians* that were reserv'd alive should be kept by his particular souldiers as their slaves, a custome which they constantly observed ; as for the women, those excepted whom they thought most fit for their service, they were all thrust together into a house made of straw and there burnt to death, to the number of above four or five hundred.

The same Tyrant came to the City of  
Cota

*Cota* where he took an infinite sight of people, and cast fifteen or sixteen of the Nobles and Lords of the Kingdom to his dogs, cutting off the hands of many of the *Indians* both men and women, which he hung upon a perch for the *Indians* to behold; in this manner were seen hung together above seventy paire of hands. This is also to be added that they cut off the noses both of Infants and their Mothers.

No man can rehearse the cruelties committed by this man, the enemy of God; They are innumerable, neither heard of nor seen before, especially those committed in *Guatemala*, which were their chiefe master-peices in this art of destruction which they have been so long practising.

The witnesses do moreover adde this, that the cruelties and slaughters committed in the said new Kingdome of *Granata* by the said Captain and his accomplices the destroyers and Abaddons of mankind, who are with him, and to whom he gives the power to exercise these strange abominations, are so many and so great, that if his Majesty do not stop the deluge of evils which they bring along with them ( for the slaughters of the *Indians* are made onely through the desire of their Gold, though it be all in their own hands already ) in a very short time the Kingdom will be ruin'd & laid desolate, and the land  
when



when all the Inhabitants are destroy'd must of necessity lie untill'd.

In this place we must not passe by a most pernicious cruelty of these Tyrants which was so violent, that in the space of two or three years ( for no longer time there was between the desolation and the discovery of this Kingdom which was the most populous Country in the whole World ) they totally ruin'd and depopulated the whole Country, shewing themselves so void of compassion, so empty of grace, so regardless of the Kings honour, that they had not left a person living, had not his Majesty a little stopt the current of their cruelty : which I the more easily believe, because I have seen my selfe in a few dayes several great Kingdomes and Countries destroy'd and desolate. There are some large Provinces adjoyning to the Kingdom of new *Granata* which are call'd *Popagan* and *Calis*, and three or four others which stretch themselves in length above 500. miles, which they destroy'd in the same manner as they did the other, and by their foresaid Massacres brought down to the lowest degree of desolation, and this some who return'd out of these Countries & came to us relate ; But if there were ever any thing to be bewailed by man, they were the stories which they told of large Cities ruin'd and buried in their own ashes ; scarce fifty houses  
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remaining where before there were above a thousand, or two thousand; and the sad narrations which they brought, of large Countries and Regions that lay desolate and spoil'd of their inhabitants.

At length there went out of the Kingdomes of *Perne* through the Country of *Quitonia* into the Regions of *Granata* and *Popaganum*, many very cruel Tyrants, who march'd through the *Carthaginians*, and *Urabia*, to reach *Calisum*, while others stay'd to assaile *Quitonium* it selfe. But these at length joyn'd together, depopulating above sixe hundred miles in length, with an infinite waste of men, to the remainder whereof they are at present no lesse cruel.

And thus what I set down as a rule, still holds good, that the violence and cruelty of the *Spaniards*, by continuance still waxed more and more furious and bloody. But among all these Crimes, which are onely worthy of fire and sword, that have been perpetrated in these Countries, this which followes is worthy the taking notice of.

When the heate of Massacring and killing is over, they carry captive away sometimes two hundred, sometimes three hundred men apeice; and when their master pleases, he commands a hundred at a time to be brought before him, to whom when  
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they come like meek and patient lambs, he commands thirty or forty of them to be put to death; telling the rest that thus they shall all be us'd unlesse they prove diligent in his service.

Consider I beseech you, all that read, or shall read these few papers, whether an act so horrible, so detestable, so inhumane, do not exceed all the iniquities and cruelties that the imagination of man can comprehend; and whether such *Spaniards* may not be deservedly called Devils; or whether it be not a thing almost indifferent whether the *Indians* should be in the hands of *Spaniards*, or of the Infernal spirits. Neither will I forget to relate one barbarous action, which as I think doth exceed the cruelty of beasts.

The *Spaniards* which are among the *Indians* do breed up a sort of fierce dogs, which they teach and instruct to fall upon the *Indians* and devour them. Now let all men, judge whether Christians or Turks, in this it much imports not, whether so much cruelty ever peirc'd their eares before. These dogs they take along with them in all their expeditions, carrying also divers *Indians* in chains for the sustenance of those dogs. And it was a common thing for them to say one to another; Give me a quarter of your Indian for my dogs, and too morrow when I kill one I will pay it you again; As if they were

were no more to be accounted of then the offals of a hog or sheep. Others were wont to go a hunting in the morning, and being ask'd how they had sped : Oh very well reply'd the other, my dogs have kill'd fifteen or sixteen *Indians* this morning ; These have been all proved in the impeachments made by one Tyrant against another. Could there be any thing more horrible or more cruel ?

But I will here stay, until there shall come news of greater impieties ( if greater there can be ) or till we shall return to behold these things which for the space of above forty years we have already seen. And now I do protest according to my conscience and in the sight of God, that the losses of the *Indians* were so great, and so many their subverted Cities, the cruelties and massacres so horrible, the violences and iniquities so inhuman, that though I have done my utmost to relate what I could, and to paint them in their own lively colours, yet have I not been able to rehearse one thing done among a thousand, either as to the quantity or the quality of the Crimes.

And now that all true Christians may be mov'd with the greater compassion towards the poor creatures, that their losses may appeare the more deplorable, that they may with a greater indignation detest the ambition, cruelty, and covetousness,



of the *Spaniards*, to those which I have abovesaid, I will also adde this for a truth, that, from the time *America* was first discovered unto this present, the *Indians* never were the men that ever shewed the least disaffection, or offer'd the least injury to the *Spaniards*, but rather ador'd them as Angels of immortality come to visit them from Heaven, till their owne actions betrayd them to a far worse censure.

This I will also adde, that from the beginning to this day, the *Spaniards* were never any more mindful to spread the Gospel among them, then as if they had been dogs; but on the contrary forbid religious persons to exercise their dutie, deterring them by many afflictions and persecutions from preaching and teaching among them, for that they thought would have hindered them in getting their Gold, and kept the people from their labours. Neither had they any more knowledge of the God of Heaven, as to say whether he were of wood, brasse, or iron, then they had above a hundred years before. *New Spaine* being onely excepted, whither the Religious persons had most liberty to go: So that they all dy'd without Faith or Sacraments, to the willing destruction of their souls.

I Frier *Bartholmew Casaus*, of the Order

der of *St. Dominic*, who went to these parts through the mercy of God, desiring the salvation of the *Indians*, that so many precious soules redeemed with the blood of Christ might not perish, but wishing with my whole heart, that they might through the knowledge of their Creator live eternally: Because of the care also and compassion which I beare to my Country, which is *Castile*, fearing lest God should destroy it in his anger for the sins which it hath committed against his divine Majesty, the faith and the honour of divers great persons in the Court of *Spaine*, zealously religious, and who abominate these bloody and detestable actions, after many hindrances of businesse, did at length put an end to this brief Tractate at *Valentia* the eighth day of *December* 1542. when the *Spaniards* (though they were in some places more cruel, in some places lesse, after the end of all their torments, violences, tyrannies, desolations and oppressions, were at length come to *Mexico*, which enjoyes a gentler usage then other parts; for there is an outside of Justice, which doth something restrain their cruelty, though not at all the immoderate tributes which they lay upon them. And now I have a real hope, that *Charles* the Fifth our Sovereign Lord and Prince, Emperor & King of *Spaine*, (to whose eares the wickednesses



ses and impieties of these tyrants do daily come, which are committed against the will of God in these Countries, for they have hitherto conceal'd these things from him) not lesse subtilly then maliciously, will extirpate the causes of so many evils, and apply fitting remedies to the calamities of this New World delivered by God to him as to a Lover of Justice and Mercy. Which God we doe beseech to grant him happinesse in his life and in his Imperial dignity, and to bless his Royal soule with eternal happiness. *Amen.*



*F J N J S.*



**The Historical Relation of the Spanish  
Massacres in the *West Indies*.**



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